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TEA :
AND
THE TEA TRADE.

PARTS FIRST, SECOND AND THIRD.

First Published in *Went's Merchants' Magazine*

OF JANUARY, FEBRUARY AND MAY.

WITH A POSTSCRIPT.

BY GIDEON NYE, JR., OF CANTON.

Third Edition of Parts 1 and 2.--With a Preface and a Marginal Index.

NEW YORK :
PRINTED BY GEO. W. WOOD, 15 SPRUCE-STREET.
1850.

TEA :

AND

THE TEA TRADE.

Parts First and Second.

FIRST PUBLISHED IN HUNT'S MERCHANTS' MAGAZINE,

JANUARY AND FEBRUARY, 1850.

Comprising a General View of the Progress of its Use, and of the Reciprocal Benefits derived therefrom, with Remarks upon the existing impediments to the more rapid increase of its consumption in Great Britain and in this Country: accompanied by directions for its preparation as a beverage; and by suggestions of the moral and economical results derivable from its more extended use in this Country.

TO WHICH IS ADDED :—

A Sketch of the History of the Trade; and a View of its Statistical Progress and Present Position in Great Britain and this Country,—accompanied by remarks upon the results thus shown, as suggestive of the want of a greater uniformity in prices.

WITH A POSTSCRIPT.

BY GIDEON NYE, JR., OF CANTON.

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Jan 23, 1927

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TO MRU
ABROUJAO

PREFACE TO SECOND EDITION.

THE general acceptance which these Papers met with when published in the Merchants' Magazine, and the want of additional copies, induced their re-publication in pamphlet form. That edition is exhausted, and there is a demand for a Second one, which is now answered, with some improvements in the form, but without any change in the matter:—The marginal index will assist the reader; and the different type will, also, be considered an improvement: The Postscript will now be found in its right place, also.

The promised *Third* Paper for the Merchants' Magazine is in course of preparation. In the meantime, the writer may, perhaps, be permitted to remark, in reference to that part of these papers which treats of the question of supply and prices, that the course of events and of the markets in China, as well as in England and this country, has sustained the opinions he had offered, in a remarkable degree, considering the unusual early in-coming of the crops this year; and that, so far as this unusual cause affects the position of the market here, it indicates clearly, as the *sole* necessity to ensure stability or improvement, a more gradual offering of the cargoes which have arrived, in anticipation of the season of the greatest demand, since it is apparent that the imports before October next must fall short of the wants of the country.

March 18th, 1850.

TEA:

AND THE TEA TRADE.

FROM HUNT'S MERCHANTS' MAGAZINE.

WHETHER regarded as a necessary of life, or as forming an element in the amelioration of the intercourse of nations, the article of Tea takes the first rank in the history of Commerce.

Introduction.

The production of one country, its use has spread over almost every other civilized one, until its name has become a synonyme of the ancient empire where it grows, and suggests to the mind, not so much the healthful properties of a simple shrub, as the history of the intercourse with China, and of China itself.

Growth and beneficial influences of this Commerce.

No other production of the soil has, in an equal degree, stimulated the intercourse of the most distant portions of the globe; nor has any other beverage, with equally unalloyed benefit, so commended itself to the palates of the people of the more civilized nations, or become so much a source of comfort, and a means of temperance, healthfulness, and cheerfulness; whilst it may be doubted if any other is equally a restorative and stimulative of the intellectual faculties of man.

The incentive to the industry of many millions in China, it is the direct source of an immense revenue to the British exchequer,* and of much prosperity to the manufacturing and commercial interests of the British empire, and other nations; and whilst its agreeable and healthful properties have diffused comfort and cheerfulness and promoted temperance amongst the households of the western nations, these, reciprocally, have contributed to the moral influences of this interchange of commerce upon the millions of the populous and farthest East.

* The duty upon tea imported into Great Britain has reached the almost incredible sum of £5,400,000 sterling, or about \$25,000,000 per annum.

The traffic in Opium a serious check to its prosperity, and to an amelioration of intercourse.

But, in tracing the progress of its use, and estimating the mutual benefits that it has conferred, the satisfaction that is derived therefrom is not wholly unalloyed—for, whilst it forms on one side the healthful element of a reciprocal commerce, we find that it has become, (at a recent period, and mainly indirectly, it is true,) in some degree, the interchange of an article of commerce—opium—whose effects are widely injurious, thus presenting, to the western nations, the humiliating contrast, of the gift of what is fraught with the worst of evils, with that from which flows unmixed good.

Until the taste for this pernicious drug had spread insidiously over the empire, and the traffic in it had largely increased, China was the recipient of the precious metals from the western nations, in the adjustment of the balance of trade in her favor; but since the expiration of the East India Company's charter, (1834,) the consumption of it has so largely augmented* that, although the exports of Chinese produce have also greatly increased, yet the export of the precious metals, in adjustment of the balance adverse to China, has reached the annual sum of about \$10,000,000; thus inflicting upon China a two-fold injury, in the demoralization of her people, and the undermining of her pecuniary resources—whose effects are of the most grave moment, as threatening the very integrity of the empire.

As one of the impediments in the way of the prosperity of the tea trade, the consideration of the influences of this immense traffic is in no wise a digression; nor can we, consistently, content ourselves with merely an incidental allusion to it, although it is no part of our purpose to discuss the moral question, for we find it greatly prejudicial to the whole legal trade with China.†

* The rapid growth and great amount of the opium trade is shown by the following figures and dates:—In the year 1767, the import of opium had reached but 1,000 chests; in 1816, it was about 3,200 chests; in 1826, about 9,900 chests; in 1836, about 26,000 chests; in 1845, about 40,000 chests; in 1848, considerably more. The *net* revenue to the British Indian government had, in 1845–6, already reached the large sum of £4,766,536 sterling, or about \$23,000,000!

† A letter of August last, from a house at Shanghai, speaks directly to the point, as quoted below; as does the following evidence of George Moffat, Esq., M. P., before the Select Committee of the House of Commons:—"The value of opium imported into China from India is very little short, I believe, in the last year, (for which there is no official return,) of £5,000,000 sterling; for the year 1844, for which there is a return, the value was £4,800,000 sterling, making the balance of trade very much against the Chinese; hence they demand and obtain a very high price for their tea, which the importers into China of English produce are compelled to take in payment."

EXTRACT FROM A LETTER OF AUGUST LAST, FROM A HOUSE AT SHANGHAI.

"We do not know if the same cause operates quite as much here as at Canton; but think there is much truth in an article in the 'Register,' (newspaper,) attributing the small demand for European (foreign) manufactures to the quantity of drug placed against produce. We expected here, for instance, a revival of demand, when produce came freely to market, but were disappointed, and attributed it at the time mostly to

It seriously disturbs the financial affairs of the country, thus impairing confidence, and directly depressing the prices of all other articles of importation, whilst, at the same time, raising those of export articles.

These are the direct commercial evils, irrespective of the disturbing political questions that it involves.

The legalization of the trade in the drug would, no doubt, tend to lessen its price, and work some amelioration of these commercial evils; nor is it improbable that the sum of its deleterious effects, morally and physically, upon the consumers of it, may be lessened, by thus robbing it of the fascination of a forbidden and expensive luxury.

To legalize the importation of Opium would lessen the evils of its introduction.

(THE TEA TRADE WITH ENGLAND.)

The greatest and most direct discouragement and impediment of the tea trade, and one involving a greater wrong to China, considered in a commercial sense alone, remains, however, to be noticed; and is found where those who confided in Sir Robert Peel's enunciation of the free trade policy, made about four years ago, would not expect at this day to find it,—*in the British Tariff of duties*. Nor would one who, with a regard to international justice and the comity of nations, should refer to the existing treaties between the two powers, credit the existence in British law of such a "gross injustice to China,"* as is involved in the unparalleled and oppressive tax exacted upon the importation of tea into England.

The greatest check to its extension, and a great wrong to China, is the duty imposed in England.

The enormous sum of the duty annually collected upon the importation of tea has already been stated;† and the nature and extent of the injustice to China, in thus taxing her great staple, is shown by a comparison of the tariffs of duties of the two countries, that of England exacting a duty of 2s. 2½d. per pound on tea, which exceeds 250 per cent upon the cost of it, whilst that of China imposes an average duty of only 5 to 7 per cent upon

this cause. The country cannot take both goods and drug; and thus the question is, so far as England is concerned, which branch of industry should be encouraged?

"The East India Company will never give up the drug; and probably the government would not, should the Company's charter not be renewed in 1854. It appears to us the difficulty must increase with the increasing quantity of the luxury imported."

* The expression used by Sir George Larpent, Bart., before the Select Committee of the House of Commons, in 1847.

† It is now £5,400,000 sterling, per annum; and were not the real necessities of the treasury known, it would seem that the remarkable capability of expansion which has characterized this source of revenue, served but to increase the greediness of a minister careless of the consequences to the comforts of the people, or the trade of the country, for the writer remembers that when the question of the reduction of the duty was agitated some years ago, the minister professed himself satisfied with what he then got from tea, but unwilling to part with any of that, which was but £3,800,000, or about \$8,000,000 less than now!

British goods ! Nor does the rate of duty represent the amount of the imposition, or of the enhancement of the cost to the consumers, for the reason that the duty forms so large a part of the cost, that the interest upon the money required to conduct the business is a large per centage upon the first cost, and that the consequent necessity for a large capital enables a few wealthy houses to retain a virtual monopoly of the business, after it passes from the hands of the importers, thus depriving the consumers of the advantages of the competition which, in most other articles of importation, tends to moderate the prices.

The injurious working of this tax upon the consumption, and as a wrong to the poorer classes of people, and as engendering speculations.

And, as between the British government and the mass of the consumers, there is also involved, in the practical working of this law, a grievous injustice, which, as tending directly to lessen the consumption of the leaf, demands notice in this article. The duty, it will be observed, is a fixed one, (of 2s. 2½d. sterling per pound,) upon all classes of tea alike, so that the consumers whose means do not admit of their using the higher-cost classes, (but whose comfort, health and temperance depend in the greatest degree upon the use of tea,*) are compelled to pay the government a tax of 200 or 400 per cent, in the form of duty, whilst the wealthy consumers pay but 50 to 100 per cent on the qualities used by them. The effect of this inequality in the levying of the tax, seeing that it acts upon that class of the population with whom the question of price is the most important one, in seriously checking the consumption, will be obvious.

Indirectly, also, this exorbitant duty has done great harm to the trade by engendering speculations, based upon the expectation of its reduction, at different times ; and it is thus that it has been a fruitful source of the vicissitudes which have marked its course, the past six years especially.

The change desired.

In respect to the whole question of this excessive duty, it may be said that a radical reduction of it to about one shilling per pound, would satisfactorily adjust it, even though its fixed and uniform character were retained, for so moderate a uniform tax would tend to a greater assimilation of the qualities of the tea imported, and the inequality of it to the consumers would, therefore, scarcely form a matter of complaint.

The necessity of the change declared by the Committee of the House of Commons, in 1847.

The necessity of a measure of this nature, to relieve the trade from its present depressed state, is forcibly and conclusively shown in the following extracts from the report of the Select Committee of the House of Commons, (1847,) and in the extract from the circular of a highly respectable tea-brokerage house in England, of a recent date, also annexed hereto.

The following are the extracts from the report of the Select Committee, as above alluded to :—

“ We must look to tea mainly, and to an increased consumption of tea, for the means of maintaining, still more of extending, a profitable trade with those vast regions.

* Vide subsequent copies of papers of Mr. Norton, page 17.

“For such an extended consumption, unless we are content to wait for the slow progress of an increase dependant solely on the increasing numbers of our population, we can only look to some considerable reduction of the price; and for such reduction, now that competition, since the abolition of the monopoly of the East India Company, has had its full effect, and that new sources of supply have for some time been opened, we can only look to a reduction of the duty. On a first cost, ranging on the qualities in most general demand, from 8d. to 10d., in the ports of China, if any reduction can be effected, it might be of advantage to the merchant, but would have no important effect upon the selling prices in England. It is only through the duty, a duty on the average qualities of about 200 per cent, and on the worst qualities of above 350 per cent, that any such reduction to the consumer can be effected, as to stimulate consumption in any sensible degree; and such a reduction thus becomes essential to a healthy and an extended trade.

“That it is desirable in itself, as promoting the increased consumption of a beverage wholesome and agreeable to every class of our population, and one which is increasingly desired as a substitute for intoxicating liquors; and that it would be no more than is due to the Chinese, who tax our products so lightly, while we burthen theirs so heavily, and with such inconvenience to their trade, your Committee conceive to be equally clear. In fact, the sole difficulty exists in the effect which any material reduction, and none other would be of much value, may be expected to have upon the resources of the exchequer.”

Extract from Messrs. Brodribb and Coates' Tea Circular, of August 22d, 1849:—

“The stock here, as also in the United Kingdom, is much smaller than at the same period last year, especially of black, while prices do not range higher. The demand has kept pace with that of last year, as will be seen by the annexed table. This anomaly cannot be accounted for on the ordinary principles of demand and supply, but must be attributed to other causes. By a return brought by the last mail of the “British Trade in China,” it appears that the value of tea exported in 1847 was £2,849,577, while in 1848 it was only £1,909,900. We cannot put the position of the trade in a truer light than by placing opposite to these sums the amount of duty paid on tea in each of these years; they are as follows:

And fully shown by the retrogressive course of the Trade.

	Value of tea exported from China.	Amount of duty paid on tea in the United Kingdom.	England.	Scotland.	Ireland.
1847.	£2,849,577	£5,067,042	£3,859,720	£494,847	£712,475
1848.	1,909,900	5,330,537	4,075,777	520,453	734,307

This is, we believe, the real cause of the depressed state of the tea trade. How is it possible, under such a load of taxation, that the trade can expand? How is it possible, while such an amount of additional capital is required to put the tea into circulation for consumption, that first-hand buyers should be otherwise than very limited in number—that importers should, in consequence, be dependant for the ready sale of their cargoes upon only a very few large first-class houses—that with even these houses their first care should be to provide means to meet the imperative demands for duty—that under such circumstances the free competition, which would otherwise insure to the merchant the highest value for his produce, is not only destroyed, but the purchasing of tea from first hands

converted into a virtual monopoly? The reimbursement of the merchant's capital, by payment for his teas is from this cause made secondary to and in some measure dependant upon the ability of first advancing money for the duty."

Delay of this change produced by unforeseen causes.

It will be observed that the expediency, nay, the necessity, of the material reduction of the duty is unreservedly declared by the committee; and it is known that the sole reasons for the delay have been found in the necessities of the treasury, which, since the report was made, has been kept in an unsatisfactory state, by unforeseen causes; first, the famine in Ireland, which rendered a loan necessary; secondly, by the monetary crises of 1847; thirdly, by the revolutions of 1848-9.

Reasons why it is now probable, and its effects on prices.

As the apprehension of the recurrence of these causes of embarrassment is subsiding, and the revenue is recovering itself, whilst the various interests of the country are prosperous again, it is reasonable to suppose that this important change may be proposed during the next session of Parliament. It will give an immense impulse to the trade; and although in two or three years, no doubt, the supply will become adjusted to the extent of the demand, yet for the succeeding one or two years a considerable advance above the current values of teas generally will take place. This need not, however, raise prices above the scale at which they ruled, until a recent period, in this country.

THE TEA TRADE WITH THE UNITED STATES.

The exemption of tea from duty. Disproportioned less consumption; and reasons of it suggested.

In striking contrast with these hindrances to the tea trade, on the part of Great Britain, is the remarkable fact of the total exemption of tea from duty in the United States. This has been the case since 1832; and it brings us to the more immediate consideration of the trade in this country. That it is far short of its full practical development here is apparent to any one who has observed attentively the system pursued in England, and the means taken to extend its use; indeed, it is surprising that the consumption is so much less than it is in England, after allowing for the difference in the modes of introducing its use, considering the general habits and almost universal prosperity of our people. It would seem that this is to be attributed, in a great degree, to the general want of knowledge of the preferable modes of preparing it; to the use of unsuitable water; or to the abuse of it, by making the infusion too strong. But there is no doubt that where an actual distaste for the beverage exists, it has chiefly arisen from the introduction of *false* tea, and of very inferior qualities of genuine; and this has in part been forced upon the importer by the demand in this country for a "cheap" article, which in effect means usually a low-priced but dear one, for it has not yet become generally known here that economy in tea consists in buying the better classes—that is to say, the medium and the higher priced.

The higher-priced Tea cheapest to the consumer.

Reasons why a high priced tea is cheapest.

When it is considered that a large part of the cost of tea is made up of the transportation and similar charges, with the cost of chests and lead, and the export duty in China—(which last is about three cents per pound, on all

kinds alike)—the land and canal carriage in China, hundreds of miles, and the freight and similar charges from China—which from their nature are made proportionate to bulk and weight, it will be perceived that a tea costing sixty cents per pound incurs no more on the pound for these charges than a tea costing but thirty cents; and that whilst these charges, assumed at ten cents per pound, make up one-third the cost of the last named, they amount to but one-sixth the cost of the sixty-cent tea—thus leaving, in genuine intrinsic value, five-sixths of the cost in the latter, and showing that thirty cents invested in *half a pound* of the better tea, would leave twenty-five cents' *value in tea*, whilst in the lower quality the same outlay would leave but twenty cents' *value of tea*; and it is only necessary to extend this calculation to a family's annual supply to show how material is the pecuniary saving—which, however, is not so important as the avoidance of what may be injurious to health, in the spurious or low qualities.

That a more extended use of tea should be encouraged, as conducive to temperance and to the social comforts of the people, has long been the opinion of a majority of their Representatives in Congress, and has always proved the prevailing argument in favor of its continued exemption from duty.

Considerations of the importance of the diffusion of the use of Tea.

That the taste for it may be greatly diffused by judicious management on the part of the dealers, in the western and southern portions of the country especially, where the inferior qualities have been largely sent, there can be no doubt on the minds of those who have witnessed its extended use and beneficial effects in England and China.

The taste for it may be extended by judicious management.

TESTIMONIALS OF THE VALUE OF TEA.

It has been well said by Dr. Williams, in his work upon China,* that "wherever it has been denounced, the opposition may usually be traced to the use of a simulated preparation." And he remarks that "in Europe its progress has been well compared to that of *truth*."

"Suspected at first, though very palatable to those who had the courage to taste it—resisted as it encroached; abused as its popularity seemed to spread; and establishing its triumph at last, in cheering the whole land, from the palace to the cottage, only by the slow and resistless effects of time and its own virtues."

The predilection of the great Dr. Johnson for tea is well known; and the numerous medical and other authorities in favor of it need not be quoted here, for beyond all these is the practical evidence of its appreciation in the constant increase of the consumption in England, where the modes of preparing it are most regarded, notwithstanding the enormous tax it bears. Of its first use in England, Mr. Montgomery Martin says:—"In 1662, Charles II. married the Princess Catherine of Portugal, who, it is said, was fond of

Evidences of its appreciation in England.

* The "Middle Kingdom."

tea, having been accustomed to it in her own country; hence it became fashionable in England. Waller, in a birth-day ode to her Majesty, ascribes the introduction of the herb* to the Queen, in the following lines:—

The Poet's
praise of it.

“ ‘The best of Queens and best of herbs we owe
To that bold nation who the way did show
To that fair region where the sun doth rise,
Whose rich productions we so justly prize.’ ”

Its inspiring
power.

“The same poet attributes an inspiring power to the Chinese leaf:—

“ ‘The muses’ friend, tea, does our fancy aid
Repress those vapors which the head invade.’ ”

Its great ap-
preciation in
China.

The appreciation in which it has long been held in China by the people is shown by the writings of many native authors, some extracts of translations from which (published in the Chinese Repository of January last,) are here given, including directions for the preparation of tea. The observance of the last in using tea (the writer has many years’ experience in China for declaring) will tend greatly to extend a predilection for the beverage; and the enjoyment derived will be proportionate to the heed bestowed upon this point.

CHINESE DIRECTIONS FOR THE PREPARATION OF TEA AS A BEVERAGE.

The kind of
water, and how
to boil the wa-
ter.

“Whenever the tea is to be infused for use,” says Tung-po, “take water from a running stream, and boil it over a lively fire. It is an old custom to use running water boiled over a lively fire; that from springs in the hills is said to be the best, and river water the next, while well water is the worst. A lively fire is a clear and bright charcoal fire.

“When making an infusion, do not boil the water too hastily; at first it begins to sparkle like ‘crabs’ eyes;’ then somewhat like ‘fishes’ eyes,’ and lastly it boils up like pearls innumerable, springing and waving about. This is the way to boil the water, which without a lively fire cannot possibly be done well.

Tea is of a
cooling nature;
it is healthful,
and in high es-
teem.

“Tea is of a cooling nature, and if drank too freely will produce exhaustion and lassitude; country people before drinking it add ginger and salt to counteract this cooling property. It is an exceedingly useful plant; cultivate it, and the benefit will be widely spread; drink it, and the animal spirits are lively and clear. The chief rulers, dukes and nobility esteem it;—the lower people, the poor and beggarly, will not be destitute of it;—all will be able daily to use it and like it.”

Another authority says:—“By drinking the genuine tea, people require less sleep,” which is really the case; but as the tea is good and efficacious, so likewise is the tea dust to drink, but the leaves should not be boiled.

Another author says:—“That drinking it tends to clear away all impurities, drives off drowsiness, and removes or prevents head-ache, and is universally in high esteem.”

It will be seen that spring or river water is preferable to well water; and it may be added that water with any impregnation of limestone is unsuita-

*Shrub

ble. In China an earthen vessel for heating the water and a tea-pot of China-ware are both considered indispensable.

The mode suggested by M. Soyer, of the Reform Club, London, as given below, is no doubt worthy of adoption, with special care that the water is really boiling; and to have the tea in perfection the first infusion only should be used. If, therefore, sufficient drink has not been obtained from the first filling of the tea-pot, it should be cleansed, and fresh leaves put in with boiling water again; and thus the tea-pot should always be cleansed after use.

M. Soyer's
mode of mak-
ing Tea.

HOW TO MAKE A GOOD CUP OF TEA.

M. Soyer recommends that before pouring in any water the tea-pot, with the tea in it, shall be placed in the oven till hot, or heated by means of a spirit-lamp, or in front of the fire, (not too close, of course,) and the pot then filled with boiling water. The result, he says, will be, in about a minute, a most delicious cup of tea, much superior to that drawn in the ordinary way.

THE QUESTION OF A DUTY UPON TEA IN THE UNITED STATES.

To revert to the question of duty in this country, it is pretty certain that no one will propose so unpopular a measure, so long as the wants of the treasury can be supplied from sources less objectionable. Neither tea or coffee are grown within the limits of the United States, so that a duty upon them would appear like a direct tax upon the consumers, without a compensating benefit to any interest in the country; and as a check to the consumption of tea here tends to check the demand for our cotton manufactures in China, where those have to come in competition with the product of the cheaper labor of England, it would seem to be impolitic to impose a duty upon the leaf so long as other sources, which do not reach the prosperity of the country or the social comforts of the people, exist.

A tax upon
Tea unpopular
and injurious,
without com-
pensation to
any class; and
tending to
check our cot-
ton manufact-
ure.

There are also national considerations of the greatest importance involved in this question of duty, for it is undeniable that the exemption of the great staple of China from all imposts gives us, as a nation, a just advantage-ground in any negotiations with the Chinese government. The value of this position can be estimated by those who have marked the almost marvelous progress westward, and toward China, made by this country the past year, and who can appreciate the advantages which are to be derived from the extension of our territories in closer proximity to that empire. Nor will such fail to recognize and admire the sagacity of those to whose enlightened enterprise we are indebted, at this early period in the history of our newly-acquired territories, for that efficient and admirable link in the chain (already so *golden* an one) which at present binds our distant portions together so firmly. We need hardly say that we allude to the Pacific line of steamers from Panama to California, established by Messrs. Howland & Aspinwall, and their associates, which has served so materially to develop and render

The exemp-
tion of tea from
duty gives the
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gotiations with
China.
Value of prox-
imity to China.

Sagacity and
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Messrs. How-
land & Aspin-
wall, and their
associates.

accessible the wonderful resources of that region, whose treasures had lain undisturbed, if not unknown, until about a twelvemonth ago ; and which is so important as a *pioneer line* and connecting link in that chain formed by mutual interests, which is destined to draw more closely the oldest of Empires and the New World.

TEA : AND THE TEA TRADE.

Part Second.

THIS subject has been introduced in the January issue of this Magazine, Introduction.
by the presentation of its general features, considered with more especial reference to China, and the two other* principal consuming countries.

It is now proposed to give a sketch of the history of the trade, and to exhibit its statistical progress and present position in all the more considerable consuming countries, as well as in China.

Before proceeding to do this, it is proper to say that the original purpose of the writer was simply to exhibit the present position of the trade, which would have been of interest to one class of readers only ; but the re-awakened general interest in China—arising from our newly-established territorial proximity to it, and from the demonstrations—as wonderful as rapid—of the practicability of materially shortening the voyage thither, from this eastern shore of our country—and which is not the less quickened by the unfolding of the marvelous riches of our newly-acquired possessions—has led to the enlargement of the design. And if it serves, in any degree, to promote and diffuse the use of tea, the writer will be fully repaid the value of his time. Writer's reasons for enlarging the papers.

He trusts that, at least, the citations of the various authorities—Chinese and Foreign—showing the estimation in which it is held in those countries where the modes of preparing it are best understood will serve to suggest the moral and economical results to be expected from its enlarged use in this country. Moral and economical results of the enlarged use of tea suggested.

Mindful that the chief practical value of the paper to merchants will consist in the reliableness of the statistical portions of it, the writer has bestowed especial care upon them. Value of statistics.

SKETCH OF THE HISTORY OF THE TEA TRADE.

We now proceed to a sketch of the history of the trade, and to present its statistical progress and present position, accompanied by the evidence of Mr. Winch and Mr. Norton, before the Select Committee of the House of

* For China is the greatest *consuming*, as well as the producing, country.

Commons of England, showing the “sympathy of consumption with prices,” and by remarks upon the state of the trade in this country.

Knowledge of the tea plant among the Chinese. Portuguese first bring tea to Western Europe in the 15th century. Its use in Persia general in 1633. Introduced into Europe in 1662.

“The knowledge of the tea plant, among the Chinese, cannot be traced back further than A. D. 350, but its general introduction does not date prior to about A. D. 800.*”

The Portuguese navigators were probably the first to bring tea to Western Europe, at some period during the sixteenth century. In Persia it was in general use in 1633. In the early part of the seventeenth century, the Dutch East India Company imported some tea into Europe; but it was scarcely known in England until after the marriage of Charles II. with the Princess Catharine of Portugal, in 1662. In 1669, the English East India Company’s first invoice of tea was received in two canisters, containing 143½ lbs. In 1678 they imported 4,713 lbs.; but this quantity so glutted the market that but little was brought for several years after. In 1680 the English Company opened a direct trade with China. In 1700 the import had reached 60,000 lbs. per annum. In 1721 it had reached 1,000,000 lbs. In the 100 years from 1710 to 1810, there were sold, at the East India Company’s sales, 750,219,016 lbs. of tea, the value of which was £129,804,595 sterling. Of this quantity 116,470,675 lbs were reëxported.

THE TEA TRADE WITH GREAT BRITAIN DURING THE PRESENT CENTURY.

Statistical summary of the trade in England.

Since the commencement of the present century, 1,385,949,566 lbs. of tea had been sold in England, (down to 1845,) and there had been paid into the British exchequer about £167,643,702 sterling on this last-mentioned quantity of tea.†

Tables of Mr. Winch submitted to the Committee of the House of Commons, showing the extent of consumption.

The following table, submitted by Mr. Winch to the Select Committee of the House of Commons in 1847, and referred to in his evidence before it, gives the quantities of tea delivered for home consumption in England, from 1801 to 1846, inclusive, the prices of common Congou, in bond, and duty paid, with the varying rates of duty; and was designed to show the “sympathy of consumption with prices.”

Year.	Average price of common Congou.		Duty Paid.		Delivered for home consumption. Pounds.	Rates of duty.
	In Bond.	s. d.	s. d.			
1801...	3	2½	4	8½	24,470,646	1800, Teas under 2s. 5d., 5 per cent Customs, and 15 per cent Excise; above 2s. 5d., 5 per cent Customs, and 35 per cent Excise. 1801, May, 50 per cent above 2s. 6d.; say, on an average, 45 per cent. 1804, 96 per cent on all teas. 1821, 100 per cent on teas above 2s.; 96 per cent on teas under 2 s. 1834, April 22d, duty on Bohea, 1s. 6d.; Congou, &c., 2s. 2d.; other sorts, 3s. 1836, duties equalized to 2s. 1d.
1811...	3	0½	5	11	23,058,496	
1821...	2	7	5	2	27,638,081	
1831...	2	1½	4	3	30,920,879	
1834...	1	9	3	11	35,490,901	
1835...	1	4½	3	6½	36,653,000	
1836...	1	1½	3	2½	38,707,000	

* Dr. Williams’ “Middle Kingdom.”
† Mr. Martin’s report to the Committee of the House of Commons.

1837...	1	1 $\frac{3}{4}$	3	2 $\frac{3}{4}$	36,315,000	
1838...	1	4 $\frac{1}{4}$	3	5 $\frac{1}{4}$	36,415,000	
1839...	1	5 $\frac{1}{2}$	3	6 $\frac{1}{2}$	36,351,000	
1840...	2	3 $\frac{1}{4}$	4	6	31,716,000	1840, May, 5 per cent added to duty.
1841...	1	10 $\frac{1}{2}$	4	0 $\frac{3}{4}$	36,811,000	
1842...	1	8 $\frac{1}{4}$	3	11	37,554,000	
1843...	1	2	3	4 $\frac{1}{2}$	39,902,000	
1844...	1	0	3	2 $\frac{1}{2}$	41,048,721	
1845...	0	10	3	0 $\frac{1}{4}$	43,595,265	
1846...	0	9	2	11 $\frac{1}{2}$	47,534,000	

The following papers were handed in by W. Norton, Esq., to the same Committee, and referred to in his evidence, and are given in detail, as showing the "sympathy of consumption with prices and the general state of the trade in Great Britain, in 1847:—

Tables of Mr. Norton submitted to the Committee of the House of Commons.

It is believed that these papers demonstrate, generally, from documents and facts upon which the greatest reliance may be placed—

1 That an enormous increase in consumption may be expected, if brought within the means of the great mass of the population, from the very large annual consumption of private families of the middle class who are in competence, even under the present duty (say 13 lbs. per head); and the proof, that even in extreme poverty, tea and dry bread is frequently the only sustenance of the poor.

2 That the consumption has varied throughout in extreme degrees, in correspondence with the more or less pressure of the price and duty.

3 That the supply of tea from China has ever been, and will most probably be, limited only by the extent of the demand.*

4 That assuming the extremely probable increase of consumption in the first year to 80,000,000 lbs., the deficiency in the revenue would be very trifling, and that the revenue would, at an early period, be much improved.

5 To the incalculable benefit of the consumers, manufacturing interest, and shipping.

No. 1.

		POPULATION, AND CONSUMPTION OF TEA.		Rate per head.
		Population.	Consumption. Pounds.	
In 1801..	Great Britain.....	10,942,646	23,271,790	{ Unc'tn what pro- p'rt'n of consump- tion was in Irel'd.
1811..	"	12,596,803	22,454,532	
1821..	"	14,391,631	{ 26,754,537	1 $\frac{1}{2}$ lb. per an.
	Ireland.....	6,801,827		
1831..	Great Britain.....	16,539,318	{ 29,997,055	Ab't 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ lb. per an.
	Ireland.....	7,767,401		
1841..	Great Britain.....	18,720,394	{ 36,675,677	1 $\frac{3}{8}$ lb. per annum.
	Ireland.....	8,196,597		
1846..	United Kingdom (suppose)	29,000,000	47,534,000	1 $\frac{3}{8}$ lb. per an.

It will be seen that from 1831 to 1841, there was only a rise in consumption of one-eighth of a pound per head of population, owing to the high prices of the war still prevailing; from 1841 to 1846, the consumption has increased one-quarter of a pound per head, principally arising from the reduction in the import price to a point which is ruinous to the trade, notwithstanding the enormous duty levied. A strong inference may be drawn as to the large increase of consumption which would be likely to follow a reduction of the price of tea to two-thirds its present cost.

Examination into the rise of consumption.

In private families, whose expenses are based on competence, the consumption

Families in competence use 12 to 13

* The prices always becoming adjusted to the extent of demand.

pounds per head per annum, and servants allowed the same.

Tea the greatest comfort of the poor.

of tea is twelve to thirteen pounds per head. Domestic servants, in such families, when allowed tea, have usually one-quarter of a pound per week, or thirteen pounds per annum.

Within a few months, two coroners' inquests were held on two poor women starved to death, not known to each other. They were both proved to have lived, for the last fortnight, on a little tea and dry bread. Of the few pence expended on tea, two-thirds went in the duty.

No. 2.

VARYING CONSUMPTION OF TEA, ACCORDING TO DUTY AND PRICE.

	Duty.		Consumption.	
			Pounds.	
In 1782.....	£55 15s. 10d. per cent and 1s. 1 4-5d.		6,202,257	
1783.....	" "		4,741,522	
1784.....	£12 10s. per cent only.....		10,150,700	Increase 113½ per ct.
1785.....	" "		14,800,932	" 46 "
1786.....	" "		15,851,747	" 7 "
1795.....	20 per cent.....		21,342,845	Incr'se, 12 y's, 350 p.c.
1801.....	50 per cent 2s. 6d.; 20 per ct. under		23,730,150	
L'ge profit of E. I. Co. & high ad val. duty.	1803 95	" 65	24,877,450	" 8 y's, 16½ p. c.
	1821 100	" 96	26,754,537	" 18 y's, 7½ p. c.
	1833 "	" "	31,829,620	" 12 y's, 19 p c.
1834.....	2s 2d. per lb. Congou, 1s. 6d. per lb. Bohea; in 1836, all sorts, 2s. 2½d.		34,969,631	In 1834 began free trade. No artificial prof'is, & reduct'n in price of tea fully 1s. 6d. to 2s. per lb.
1844.....			41,363,770	
1846.....			47,534,977	Incr'se, 12 y's, 35 p. c.

Great increase of consumption under a low duty.

Falling off of consumption under a higher duty.

Great susceptibility of consumption to price.

Circumstances generally favoring increased consumption with a low duty.

It will be seen that from 1784 to 1795, inclusive, 12 years, the consumption of tea increased 350 per cent!! and although, no doubt, the extremely low duty suppressed a great deal of smuggling, the increase in consumption must have been very large, owing to its great reduction in price.

The duty, in 1795, was 20 per cent; 1797, 20 per cent; 1798, 35 per cent; 1800, 40 per cent; 1801, 50 per cent above 2s. 6d.; and the increased consumption in eight years, from 1795 to 1803, was only 16½ per cent..

In 1803, the duty was raised to 95 per cent, 2s. 6d., and 65 per cent under 2s. 6d., to 1806; 96 per cent to 1818, and 100 per cent to 1821; and the consumption increased in 18 years only 7½ per cent, while the increase in the population during the same period, was 27 per cent; consequently, the high price of tea absolutely diminished greatly the consumption.

Can proof be carried further, of the extreme susceptibility to price of the consumption of tea? If so, it will be found in the fact that from 1834 to 1846, in 12 years, under the modified price consequent on free trade, and notwithstanding the extremely oppressive duty, the consumption has again started forward, and is now increased 35 per cent up to the end of 1846.

It may be said that in the population of 1783, a large portion knew nothing of tea until introduced to them by a remarkable reduction in price. True!

Equally it may be said that a large proportion of our present population does not consume tea, and would be induced to consume it, were 4s. Congou reduced to 2s. 6d. per pound.

All the present comparative circumstances of the country, free intercommunication of its population, general employment, increased sobriety, extending education and morality, "tea-totalism," &c., are in favor of the assumption that low prices would induce very general consumption; and a reduction of 1s. 6d.

from 4s. per pound would be infinitely more attractive to the bulk of the people than was the decline from 6s. and 7s. down to 4s. and 5s.

No. 3.

PROBABILITY OF INCREASED SUPPLY.

	Pounds.	Prices in China.	Probable increase of supply sufficient.
1834a.....	30,224,904	{ Season 1835-36 : Fukkein Bohea, 14ts. ; Campoi and Congou, 18ts. 34m.	
1836b.....	94,129,480		
Equal to per an.	47,064,740	Increased supply, 57 per cent.	
1842c.....	In these six years, owing to the disputes with China, the exports were extremely irregular ; but the whole for the six years was 209,171,099 lbs. ; averaging 34,861,847 lbs.		
		Uncertain.	ts. m.
1843d.....	47,855,312	1842. October to December, Congou...	14 30
1844e.....	50,241,428	1843 " " "	16 33
1845f.....	53,959,618	1844. January to March "	13 36
1846g.....	57,584,561	October, 1845, to March, 1846 "	16 36
		—A very few chops.....	40 00

a Export from China to United Kingdom, ending 30th of March ; b Export from 23d of April, 1834, to 30th of March ; c Export from 1st of July, 1836, to 30th of June ; d Export from 1st July, 1842, to 30th June ; e Export from 1st July, 1843, to 30th June ; f Export from 1st July, 1844, to 30th June ; g Export from 1st July, 1845, to 30th June.

This season's exports expected to be equal to last. October, 1846, quotation, 16ts 34m.

Mem.—The latest advices from China have quoted a very considerable decline in the price of teas.

Tea is grown largely near Canton, in 23 deg. N. ; Fukkein, in 27 deg. N. ; and above Nankin, in about 32 deg. N., along the course of the Yang-tse Keang River, whence the best teas are procured. Tea is also grown some degrees further north. Where grown.

The late Sir George Staunton remarks, in his account of Lord Macartney's embassy—"Such immense quantities of tea are raised in China, that a sudden failing of the demand from Europe would not be likely to cause any material reduction in price in the China markets." And it is seen that, under all fluctuations of supply to us, the price in China has remained nearly the same, while the supply has ever been more than commensurate to our extreme wants. The late Sir George Staunton's opinion that no material reduction of prices would follow a failing of demand.

No. 4.

ASSUMED EFFECT ON REVENUE, BY ALTERATION OF THE DUTY ON TEA, FROM 2s. 2½D. TO 1s. PER POUND.

Price of Common Congou, retail, is.....	s. d.	4s. per pound.	Assumed effect of a reduction of the duty to 1s. per lb. on the revenue.
First cost.....	0 10	per lb.	
Duty.....	2 2½	"	
Assumed profit, wholesale.....	0 2	"	
" retail, 25 per cent as cash.....	0 10	"	
If duty were reduced ; price.....		4s. per pound.	
First cost.....	0 10	"	
Duty.....	1 0	"	
Assumed profit, wholesale.....	0 2	"	
" retail, 25 per cent as cash.....	0 6	"	
Or 2d. per ounce, instead of 3d.		2s 6d. per lb.	

Thus 33½ per cent of the present expenditure in tea would be saved, and applicable among the economical classes, greatly to the increase of the strength of the tea which they drink, and which is now, in most cases, with the poor, mere water spoiled. Saving of expenditure thereby.

Suppose the consumption increased, in the second year, to 80,000,000 lbs., (and it is probable that it would be so, even in the first,) the calculation with the revenue would stand thus:—

Increase of consumption and revenue.

The present consumption of 45,000,000 lbs. at 2s. 2½d. per lb. £4,921,875

Would become 80,000,000 lbs. at 1s. £4,000,000

Add 3 lbs. sugar per lb. increase of tea, 46,875 tons at £21 per ton. 984,375

4,984,375

Causing an increase of. £62,500

Statements of the exports of tea to Great Britain: years 1844 to 1850.

The following statements of the exports of tea from China to Great Britain, are chiefly from the reports of the British Chamber of Commerce, of Canton. (It will be observed that these show the total export to England, whereas the above statements do not include the tea not consumed in Eng- and, and reexported.)

EXPORT OF TEA FROM CHINA TO GREAT BRITAIN.

Date.	Congou.	Souchong.	Scented Caper	Pekoe.	Scented O. Pekoe.	Sorts.	Total Black.
1844a.	37,735,900	1,315,800	519,900	526,800	1,056,800	484,200	41,639,400
1845b.	35,740,400	1,341,800	1,367,300	627,900	1,332,300	463,600	41,373,300
1846c.	37,173,500	1,966,100	1,637,800	681,000	2,592,700	924,400	44,975,500

Date.	Hyson	Young Skin.	Hyson.	Twankay.	Hyson.	Imperial.	Gunpowder.	Tot. Green.	Total lbs.
1844a.	549,000	1,465,200	3,828,600	1,276,300	581,700	1,273,400	8,974,200	50,613,600	
1845b.	319,300	2,969,100	3,200,300	2,112,100	1,229,900	2,366,200	12,196,900	53,570,200	
1846c.	207,000	3,395,600	3,680,300	1,685,100	1,104,000	2,537,100	12,609,100	57,584,600	

a Year ending June 30, in 97 vessels; b year ending June 30, in 105 vessels; c year ending June 30, in 117 vessels.

Season.	Congou.	Caper.	Scented	Souchong.	Sorts.	Flowery Pekoe.	Or. Pekoe.	Scented Or. Pekoe.	Total Black.
1846-47a	10,067,665	142,121	706,083	1,436,121	264,965	698,918	510,698	1,622,119	45,448,690
1847-48b	36,602,963	100,570	1,027,916	767,499	379,827	165,317	283,215	1,462,736	40,730,043
1848-49c	33,877,560	.....	1,371,587	1,042,505	294,241	438,500	117,203	1,631,071	38,772,667

Season.	Hyson	Young Skin.	Hyson.	Twankay.	Hyson.	Imperial.	Gun- powder.	Total Green.	Total Export.
1846-47a.....	1,425,560	39,236	1,443,468	2,347,631	675,312	2,068,442	7,999,649	53,448,339	
1847-48b.....	813,232	116	1,088,270	2,168,190	551,816	2,331,014	6,952,638	47,682,681	
1848-49c.....	118,062	49,246	967,637	3,077,882	619,643	3,646,656	8,479,186	47,251,853	

a In 105 vessels; b in 92 vessels; c in 86 vessels.

COMPARATIVE STATEMENT OF EXPORTS OF TEAS FROM ALL CHINA TO THE UNITED KINGDOM, FROM 1ST JULY, TO SEPTEMBER 25TH, 1849, AND FOR THE CORRESPONDING PERIOD OF 1848.

	1848-49.	1849-50.		Pounds.	Pounds.
	Pounds.	Pounds.		1848-49.	1849-50.
Congou.....	9,352,044	17,329,290	Twankay.....	42,365	.....
Souchong....	531,382	680,214	Hyson.....	22,723	44,400
Pekoe.....	16,142	130,972	Young Hyson...	560,905	234,587
S. O. Pekoe..	426,826	711,106	Hyson Skin.....	6,613	.....
S. Caper.....	354,223	593,529	Gunpowder.....	928,821	983,217
Powchong...	5,190	.....	Imperial.....	88,353	19,368
Sorts.....	53,357	283,399			
Total Black.	10,739,164	19,728,510	Total Green....	1,649,680	1,281,572
			Grand Total....	12,328,844	21,010,082

Condition of the trade in Great Britain in 1848 to 1849.

The following tables, showing the condition of the trade in Great Britain, the present year and the past, are from the circular of Messrs. Brodribb and Coates, of Liverpool:—

GENERAL STATEMENT OF IMPORTS, DELIVERIES, AND STOCKS OF TEA AT LIVERPOOL, DUBLIN, AND LONDON, FOR 1849 AND 1848.

IMPORTS.

	Liverpool.		Dublin.		London.	
	1st January, to 16th August.	1849.	1848.	1st January, to 16th August.	1849.	1848.
Foreign....	6,666,300	8,600,300	217,300	599,700	26,814,000	24,326,000
Coastwise..	527,000	292,800	1,818,800	1,841,900	472,000	818,000
Total impr'ts	7,193,300	8,893,100	2,036,100	2,441,600	27,286,000	25,144,000

DELIVERIES.

Duty paid..	3,966,000	3,573,500	2,068,800	2,121,600	14,945,000	15,036,000
Sent coast'w	3,853,000	4,339,200	89,600	103,300	5,039,000	3,806,000
Exported...	668,100	490,300	.....	.....	1,942,000	1,433,000
Tot. deliv'es.	8,487,700	8,403,000	2,158,400	2,224,900	21,926,000	20,275,000
Stocks.....	9,487,700	13,614,200	1,326,400	1,667,900	34,755,000	38,045,000

STATEMENT OF IMPORTS, DELIVERIES, AND STOCKS OF EACH KIND OF TEA, AT LIVERPOOL AND LONDON, FOR 1849 AND 1848.

N. B.—With the most trifling exception, the stock in Dublin consists entirely of Congou.

LIVERPOOL.

	Imports.		Deliveries.		Stocks.	
	1st Jan. to 16th Aug.		1st Jan. to 16th Aug.		16th Aug.	
	1849.	1848.	1849.	1848.	1849.	1848.
Bohea.....	.....	.....	8,600	5,800	110,300	121,800
Congou.....	5,144,300	7,180,800	6,316,600	6,393,200	5,759,700	10,635,500
Caper.....	25,000	35,600	11,400	35,500	21,400	32,700
S. Caper.....	158,400	155,500	122,900	159,200	147,900	97,400
Pouchong.....	.....	.....	600	11,500	43,900	61,600
Ng. Yg. & Og.	.....	.....	39,300	10,700	24,000	22,500
Souchong....	116,000	80,700	249,200	114,100	335,700	373,000
Pekoe & H. Mu	11,900	.....	5,600	22,000	77,700	65,000
Flow'ry Pekoe	5,400	15,600	27,600	15,100	8,200	9,500
Or. Pekoe....	.....	35,000	42,800	96,800	5,400	46,600
S. O. Pekoe..	250,200	425,000	282,400	199,500	447,800	580,500
Twankay....	18,300	31,300	247,300	150,600	551,300	468,400
Hyson Skin..	3,800	100	3,300	4,400	36,800	26,600
Hyson.....	79,600	67,500	105,500	199,500	254,200	199,000
Young Hyson.	281,000	283,400	424,200	330,000	414,400	503,500
Imperial.....	58,400	45,400	98,300	154,300	50,500	75,500
Gunpowder..	471,600	203,100	324,000	261,500	353,400	106,200
Sorts.....	569,400	334,100	178,100	239,300	795,100	188,900
Total Black.	6,280,700	8,262,300	7,285,100	7,302,700	7,777,100	12,235,000
Total Green.	912,700	630,800	1,202,600	1,100,300	1,660,500	1,879,200
Total lbs.	7,193,300	8,893,100	8,487,700	8,403,000	9,437,700	13,614,200

LONDON.

	1st Jan. to 16th July.		1st Jan. to 16th July.		16th July.	
	1849.	1848.	1849.	1848.	1849.	1848.
Bohea.....	.....	.....	9,000	8,000	97,000	113,000
Congou.....	19,414,000	18,701,000	14,475,000	13,636,000	23,927,000	25,533,000
Caper.....	.....	22,000	41,000	100,000	73,000	157,000
S. Caper.....	321,000	404,000	342,000	382,000	228,000	420,000
Pouchong.....	.....	.....	11,000	25,000	68,000	86,000
Ng. Yg. & Og..	103,000	258,000	174,000	226,000	119,000	357,000
Souchong.....	812,000	609,000	702,000	676,000	988,000	1,186,000
Pekoe & H. Mu.	8,000	1,000	26,000	26,000	65,000	119,000
Flowery Pekoe.	286,000	117,000	294,000	155,000	210,000	481,000
Or. Pekoe....	23,000	208,000	248,000	190,000	334,000	704,000
S. O. Pekoe..	840,000	589,000	804,000	713,000	602,000	910,000
Twankay.....	88,000	275,000	692,000	557,000	1,207,000	1,844,000
Hyson Skin...	35,000	2,000	13,000	30,000	166,000	157,000
Hyson.....	448,000	500,000	785,000	688,000	1,001,000	1,423,000
Young Hyson..	2,165,000	1,145,000	1,266,000	1,023,000	3,019,000	2,291,000
Imperial.....	449,000	308,000	376,000	385,000	602,000	744,000
Gunpowder...	2,138,000	1,083,000	1,569,000	1,308,000	1,665,000	1,206,000
Sorts.....	156,000	922,000	117,000	144,000	384,000	314,000
Total Black.	21,963,000	21,831,000	17,225,000	16,284,000	27,095,000	30,380,000
Total Green.	5,323,000	3,313,000	4,701,000	3,991,000	7,660,000	7,665,000
Total lbs...	27,286,000	25,144,000	21,926,000	20,275,000	34,755,000	38,045,000

To which the Prices Current of the 22d of August last, of the same house, is added, to show the prices and classification:—

Prices current
Aug. 22d, 1849.

PRICES CURRENT OF TEA IN LIVERPOOL, (IN BOND,) DUTY, 2s. 1d. PER POUND, AND 5 PER CENT, = 2s. 2½d. PER POUND, NET.

NOTE.—As this circular is prepared *solely* for circulation amongst importers and houses in China, the following list of “prices current” does not profess to give the extreme rates which may occasionally be obtained for one or more parcels of any kind, under other than ordinary circumstances; but its aim is to give a correct view of prices *current*, not of prices *exceptional*, in the market, and by it to guard against those disappointments which so often arise from operations based on quotations giving too great latitude of range.

	22d July, 1849.				22d Aug., 1849.				Remarks.		
	s.	d.	s.	d.	s.	d.	s.	d.			
Bohea, Canton. per lb	0	2	to	0	4	0	2	to	0	4	Nominal.
Congou, ordin'y to good ord.	0	8½	0	8½	0	8½	0	8½		Saleable.	
com'n to good com.	0	9	0	9½	0	9	0	9½			
but mid. bl'k'sh lf.	0	10	0	10½	0	10	0	10½			
but mid. bl'k'sh lf., rather str'ng and Souchong kinds.	0	11	0	11½	0	11	0	11½			
but mid. bl'k'sh lf., r'th'r str'ng to st.	0	11½	1	0	0	11½	1	0			
but mid. bl'k'sh lf., ra. str'g to st. Pe- koe S'uch'ng flav.	1	0	1	2	1	0	1	2			
but mid. bl'k'h lf. st. & "Ho How" k'ds	0	11½	1	2	0	11½	1	2				Not much doing in these kinds.
but mid. to mid. bl'k lf. str. & Pek. flav	1	3	1	5	1	3	1	5			
mid. fl'll st. & Pek. fla	1	7	1	8	1	7	1	8			
1st cl'ss "Moning"	1	9	1	10	1	9	1	10			
extra fine "Moning"	1	9	0	10	0	9	0	10			
Souchong, ordinary.	0	9	0	10	0	9	0	10			
good to fine.	0	11	1	8	0	11	1	8	Saleable at proportion- ately low prices.		
N. Yong & O'long, g'd to fine	0	7	1	6	0	7	1	6			
Caper, com. to good, in ch'sts	0	5	0	6	0	5	0	6	Nominal.		
ditto, in 10-catty bx's.	0	7½	0	8	0	7½	0	8			
scented, ditto.	1	5	1	9	1	5	1	9	None in 1st h'nds enq. for		
Pekoe, Bl'k lf. & Hung Muey	0	9	1	0	0	9	1	0			
flow'y ord. & out condi	0	10	1	0	0	10	1	0	Nominal.		
good to fine.	1	2	1	8	1	2	1	8			
Orange Pek., pl'n com. to fine	0	7	1	0	0	7	1	0	Saleable.		
scented com. to fine, in ½ chests.	1	2	1	8	1	3	1	8			
scented fine, 10- catty boxes..	2	0	2	6	2	0	2	6			
Canton Green, Twankay. . .	0	3	0	4	0	3	0	4	Nominal.		
Young Hys'n	0	6	0	7	0	6	0	7			
Imperial.	0	9	0	10	0	9	0	10	Saleable.		
Gunpowder..	1	0	1	2	1	0	1	2			
Hyson Skin, common to fine	0	2	1	6	0	2	1	6	Nominal.		
Twankay, Good.	0	6	0	7	0	6	0	7			
Hyson.	0	9	0	10	0	9	0	10	Saleable.		
Young Hyson.	0	10	1	4	0	10	1	4			
Imperial.	0	11	1	1	0	11	1	1			
Gunpowder.	1	3	2	0	1	3	2	0			
Hyson, Common to good. . .	0	11	1	6	0	11	1	6	Difficult of sale; no de- mand.		
fine to finest.	1	9	2	4	1	9	2	4			
Young Hyson.	1	8	2	6	1	8	2	6	Saleable, but only in small quantities.		
Imperial.	1	6	1	11	1	6	1	11			
Gunpowder.	2	4	3	8	2	4	3	8			

The foregoing papers and tables, taken in connection with the introductory remarks, show, with perfect clearness, it is believed, the working of the trade, as between China and Great Britain.

THE TEA TRADE WITH THE UNITED STATES.

We now proceed to the statistics of the trade with this country. It commenced in 1784, with one ship; and the number of vessels had increased to more than a dozen five years afterward; but as the war with England, and other causes, rendered it fluctuating in amount, until about 1820, although it had always the elements of an increasing and valuable trade, it is thought unnecessary to present its statistical position anterior to that period.

The following table exhibits the imports of tea from China into the United States, annually, from 1821 to 1839, from the records of the Treasury Department, years ending 30th September:—

It commenced in 1784 with one ship, and rapidly increased.

Tables of imports from 1821.

	Pounds.		Pounds.		Pounds.
1821.....	4,973,463	1828.....	7,689,305	1835.....	14,403,458
1822.....	6,636,705	1829.....	6,595,033	1836.....	16,347,344
1823.....	8,208,895	1830.....	8,584,799	1837.....	16,942,122
1824.....	8,919,210	1831.....	5,177,557	1838.....	14,411,337
1825.....	10,178,972	1832.....	9,894,181	1839.....	9,296,679
1826.....	10,072,898	1833.....	14,637,486		
1827.....	5,868,828	1834.....	16,267,852	Total.....	195,106,125

EXPORTS IN CHESTS OF TEA, FROM CANTON TO THE UNITED STATES, COMMERCIAL YEARS 1832-33 TO 1842-3—EACH YEAR ENDING JUNE 30TH.

Kind.	1832-3.	1833-4.	1834-5.	1835-6.	1836-7.	1837-8.
Bohea.....	13,665	1,445	779	867	2,183	.....
Souchong....	34,815	52,278	35,245	64,760	29,139	52,135
Pouchong....	4,723	9,181	5,733	4,619	4,644	7,720
Pekoe.....	2,563	2,192	1,030	2,273	1,604	3,186
Total Black.	55,766	65,096	42,787	72,519	37,570	63,041
Hyson.....	14,248	23,787	16,509	16,346	19,986	13,112
Young Hyson.	51,363	86,115	76,557	83,426	93,056	70,146
Hyson Skin...	31,736	31,591	16,002	23,086	24,557	20,986
Twankay....	4,872	2,777	980	1,299	5,211	561
Gunpowder...	6,614	10,154	7,335	8,002	9,373	8,343
Imperial.....	5,939	9,424	7,736	7,444	8,051	6,911
Total Green..	114,772	163,848	125,119	139,603	160,234	120,059
Total all....	170,538	228,944	167,906	212,122	197,804	183,100
Kinds.	1838-9.	1839-40.	1840-41.	1841-42.	1842-43.	
Bohea.....	2,898	.....	.....	.....	737	
Souchong.....	11,659	37,434	20,933	20,778	41,806	
Pouchong.....	7,164	9,447	3,610	6,387	10,279	
Pekoe.....	629	1,936	518	627	1,692	
Total Black.	22,350	48,817	25,061	27,792	54,514	
Hyson.....	8,850	17,817	5,851	9,492	15,835	
Young Hyson.....	65,918	128,301	58,990	85,000	81,488	
Hyson Skin.....	8,245	26,759	11,455	17,579	24,666	
Twankay.....	938		2,281	4,024		
Gunpowder.....	7,774	15,243	2,970	8,021	10,146	
Imperial.....	6,691	13,169	2,392	6,315	8,451	
Total Green.....	98,416	201,289	83,939	130,431	140,586	
Total all.....	120,766	250,106	109,000	158,223	195,100	

Since 1843, the exports statements have been given in pounds, and as are follows—the year ending June 30th:—

	1844 <i>a</i> .	1845 <i>b</i> .	1846 <i>c</i> .	1847 <i>d</i> .	1848 <i>e</i> .	1849 <i>f</i> .
Young Hyson..	6,800,419	9,182,281	8,633,931	8,573,137	8,623,376	9,153,476
Hyson.....	539,794	358,915	905,4666	754,243	881,434	645,248
Hyson Skin...	1,430,263	2,654,859	2,588,936	1,690,219	2,756,611	2,009,679
Twankay.....	308,028			1,080,486	1,002,991	480,160
Imperial.....	456,245	674,979	54,063	956,381	968,910	710,902
Gunpowder....	597,088	941,065	1,253,686	1,334,472	1,102,243	834,988
S'g & Congou...	3,133,133	5,264,090	3,092,122	3,127,796	3,016,675	2,874,093
Pouchong.....	799,622	1,318,731	918,315	435,224	372,124	550,456
Pecco.....	60,178	51,906	22,147	120,398	4,204	18,513
Orange Pecco...	.....	19,701	13,288	173,350	45,176	55,865
Oolong.....	132,594	296,031	220,294	642,030	526,355	1,376,637
Total Green.	10,131,837	13,312,099	14,236,082	14,388,938	15,340,565	13,834,453
Total Black..	4,125,527	6,950,459	4,266,166	4,498,798	3,998,518	4,875,564

Total Pounds 14,257,364 20,762,558 18,502,284 18,887,736 19,339,083 18,710,017
a In 29 vessels; *b* not known; *c* in 40 vessels; *d* in 41 vessels; *e* in 31 vessels; *f* in 38 vessels.

COMPARATIVE STATEMENT OF EXPORTS OF TEAS TO THE UNITED STATES, FROM 1ST JULY TO 25TH SEPTEMBER, 1849, AND FOR THE CORRESPONDING PERIOD OF 1848.

	1848-9.	1849-50.		1848-9.	1849-50.
	Pounds.	Pounds.		Pounds.	Pounds.
Young Hyson...	174,275	140,899	Oolong.....	310,450	1,098,625
Hyson.....	13,328	5,042	Souch'g & Cong.	549,947	382,293
Hyson Skin.....	103,778	168,281	Pouchong.....	47,925	20,212
Twankay.....	140,921	177,503	Pekoe.....	.....	97,263
Gunpowder.....	10,700	28,204			
Imperial.....	11,510	7,771	Total Black..	908,322	1,598,397
Total Green...	454,518	527,200	Total Green...	454,518	527,200
			Grand total..	1,362,840	2,125,597

Review of
the Statistics,
and the influ-
ences upon
consumption
considered.

These tables complete the necessary statistics to afford a clear view of the progress of the tea trade with this country. It will be observed, by the first one, that in the period of twelve years, from 1821 to 1832, inclusive, the imports of tea averaged 7,733,320 lbs.; and that in the seven years from 1833 to 1839, inclusive, the average had risen to 14,615,183 lbs., or almost double the first period.

Omitting the years 1839-40, 1840-41, 1841-2, of the export list, as covering a period during which the trade was affected by the war between China and England, and taking the subsequent seven years of the export statement—of 1842-43 to the last, 1848-49—we find the average shipment to this country was 18,137,006 lbs. per annum.

Contrasting the first-named period of seven years, after the exemption of tea from duty, (in 1832,) with the last-named, we find in the former an average import of 14,615,183 lbs. against, in the latter, 18,137,006 lbs., which shows an increase of but 3,521,823 lbs. per annum, after an interval of sixteen years between the extremes of the periods.

This result, taken without examination, would be surprising, considering the great increase of the population, and the lessened cost of tea; but these figures cannot be taken as showing the actual ratio of the increase of consumption, for reasons which we shall presently state; and there is, beside,

a reason of the most vital importance to the prosperity of the trade, at all times, which explains the *want* of "the sympathy of consumption with prices," which is shown by the actual slight proportionate increase, (after allowing for the changes before alluded to, and hereafter to be stated,) of the consumption in this country, as compared with the increase in England.

This reason cannot be made too prominent, for upon it depends the prosperity of the trade, in a great degree. It is the introduction of *false* tea, and of refuse qualities of the genuine, which has been called for by the universal and constant demand in this country for a "*cheap*" article, so called, although, as has been already shown in Part First, the lowest cost tea must necessarily be intrinsically the dearest. This general seeking for the lowest cost article has induced the introduction of these substitutes for the genuine and healthful qualities, and the result has been that since the commencement of their introduction (in 1831-2) the increase of the consumption has been seriously interfered with, through the distaste which the *false* article has given. This is one very important explanation of the statistics given above—perhaps the most so; but it is believed that the consumers, generally, are now exercising much greater discrimination in selecting their tea, and are using the sound medium qualities, which yield so much larger a proportion of good drink, for the same amount of money, than the lower cost teas. It is certain that if the change be once made by any person, its economical advantages and the greater healthful properties of the good tea will prevent a return to the low cost article. It will have been observed, by the tables of the British trade already presented, that the consumption in Great Britain has increased from 32,000,000 lbs., in 1832, to about 48,000,000 lbs. in 1847, or about 50 per cent; and which covers a year less than the same period under consideration in reference to this country. This great increase has occurred under the imposition of a duty of more than 200 per cent; and this furnishes the explanation of it, as well as the confirmation of the views we have taken of the prominent cause for the slow increase of the consumption here:—The exorbitant duty has compelled the shipper to England to send but few poor teas, and has induced, at the same time, the consumer to use the superior qualities; and the further and natural consequence has been an increased liking for tea, resulting in the great increase of consumption. Here is a practical evidence of the excellence of the better qualities of tea, which should induce every one to make the change suggested. In this country, fortunately, it is not compelled by the pressure of an enormous tax, which in Great Britain doubles or trebles the cost of tea, and thus renders the better qualities many times the most economical; but in no other country, perhaps, do the mass of the consumers regard more the question of economy than in this; and although the disparity is not enormous, as in England, yet the pecuniary gain to a family, in a course of years, by the use of the medium and higher cost qualities, (whose cost is made up so much less, proportionately, of charges, with reference solely to weight or

The use of
false and
"*cheap*" tea
depreciated.

The lowest-
cost tea intrin-
sically the
dearest.

Greater health-
fulness of the
higher-priced
teas.

Comparison
of the increase
of consump-
tion in Eng-
land and this
country.

The disparity
shown to arise
from the use of
superior qual-
ities in Eng-
land, which so
propitiates the
taste as to lead
to increased
use.

bulk,) will be so great that, when once estimated carefully, will determine the choice, even without the aid of the more important consideration of the greater healthfulness of the better qualities of tea.

As the rejection of poor qualities proceeds, the consumption will increase.

This reason, then, we think it has been shown, explains in a great degree the disproportion of the increase in the consumption in this country and England; and as the rejection of the inferior qualities proceeds, and the use of the better extends, we look to see a gradual and permanent increase of the consumption here.

Reasons why an estimate of the consumption should not be based on the accessible statistics of the trade, since 1832.

But, as we have before said, we think the actual increase of consumption exceeds the amount shown as the average between the two periods, and for the following reasons:—First. The imports of the first-named period were somewhat in excess of the current wants of the country, having been stimulated by the apparent prosperity of the years 1834–7, which period was succeeded by another of general depression and disarrangement in business, during which the consumption was seriously checked, and for which reason large stocks were held over, and brought into the consumption of the subsequent years. Secondly. The custom was then common or general amongst the dealers in the cities and large towns, to hold large or considerable stocks at all times; whereas a new system of business has gradually come into use, in that respect, under which the dealers rarely purchase beyond their immediate or proximate wants, so that the stock “carried over” in second hands has become gradually reduced; and it is understood that the increased facilities for communication and transportation to and from the interior, have produced a similar change amongst the country dealers generally. It is thus that consumption has been encroaching upon stocks, and rendering the statistics of the trade, so far as they are attainable, fallacious as the basis of estimates of actual consumption. Thirdly. The re-exportation of tea to the North of Europe, (whose markets had, from the conclusion of the war of 1812 down to 1832 been principally supplied by American ships direct from China,) during the first period named had served to increase the shipments from China to this country to a much greater extent than during the latter period, for the reason that since the war between England and China, there has grown out of the new relations with it an increased direct trade with several of the countries of Europe, and especially an expansion of the export of tea to England, from which last the wants of the countries named have since been largely supplied. And thus, whilst the shipments to this country have been shut out of the foreign markets alluded to, they have gradually become absorbed by the increase of the consumption here; and various causes have, at the same time, been working the change alluded to in the mode of conducting the business on the part of the dealers, which has gradually tended to the reduction of their stocks.

Radical changes in the trade; and reduced stocks in the hands of the dealers.

The process of these changes has tended to depress prices.

The process of these changes,—first in the system of the dealers here, and secondly in the export trade with the North of Europe—notwithstanding the concurrent actual reduction of stocks, has constantly tended to de-

press prices here; and to such an extent has this effect been felt, that but for the prolonged depression of prices in England, growing out of the railway speculations, and other causes before indicated, and the consequent lessened cost in China, the import would have fallen materially short of the current wants of the country. That the import, the past season, was below the current wants of the country, the present low stock in first and second hands, as contrasted with the stocks of the same period of previous years, sufficiently shows, without reference to the fact of the greatly reduced stock in the country generally; nor is there any doubt but the importers might, with proper regard to the actual position of the trade, have given much greater stability to prices during the season, if they had agreed upon a new system of sales, in lieu of the present irregular mode of offering whole cargoes hurriedly at auction. It is apparent that some systematized mode of effecting sales is required to counteract the new system of business pursued by the dealers, who, from having found other profitable channels for their means, are only to be tempted to stock themselves as they formerly did by very low prices for teas. It is for this reason that the present irregular mode of selling by auction has become the admitted greatest evil of the trade. It is an injury to all parties, and undesired, save by the mere speculator, for it causes such rapid fluctuations that the regular dealers, with a constant watchfulness, cannot so conduct their business as to give satisfaction to their constituents; and thus the trade is kept unsettled all over the country, and the consumption checked by a rivalry, growing out of this state of things, to undersell each other, which, again, entails the other evil so vital to the healthy progress of the consumption—the introduction of the false or low qualities.

Import below the current wants of the country.

Importers might give much greater stability to prices.

Hurried and irregular mode of offering whole cargoes at auction the great evil of the trade.

Such are, briefly, the evils of the present mode of conducting sales; and if an agreement could be made by the importers for periodical sales by auction, in which each should participate in proportion to his stock, and in the order of each vessel's arrival. it would be a first step toward stability and regularity in prices; and it would divest the trade, in a considerable degree, of its present speculative character.

A remedy suggested.

The more important causes for the general depression of prices, as well as for the rapid fluctuations in them, have thus been shown.

A REVIEW OF THE QUESTION OF PRICES, AS RULING THE SUPPLY.

It has been stated, also, that but for the depression of prices in China, which was the greater from having been immediately preceded by a considerable inflation of them, and which was produced by the crises in England and Europe, in 1845-7, and the Revolutions of 1848-9, the importers could not have kept pace with the wants of trade, in the degree that they have, under the reduced scale of prices here; and it is now proposed to present the evidences of the necessity of a higher scale of prices in future, to keep the supply adequate to the actual wants of the country.

Depression of prices in China, and causes thereof.

Nothing to favor an expectation of prices being as low as last year.

In proceeding to consider the question of prices, and to estimate duly every circumstance bearing upon it, we find that there is no element of the calculation to favor an expectation of the continuance of the low prices of the past season; for whether we inquire into the cost of production and shipment, or consider the probability of the action of external causes upon the producing country; whether we regard the sure increase of consumption here, or the general and sympathetic advance in the prices of all other necessities, and of almost every kind of property, produced by general prosperity, we are brought to the same conclusion.

But one instance of similar depression.

We have seen that a remarkable concurrence of circumstances served to depress prices unnaturally in China the past year; and we shall find, in taking a retrospective view of the trade, that nothing short of a similar coincidence of causes has ever depressed prices in a like degree. We must, indeed, go back to the memorable year of 1837, for the only parallel instance since the expiration of the East India Company's charter in 1834, beyond which period it is not needful to inquire. In other periods we find the same effects in modified forms; and without entering into unnecessary particulars, since access may be had by any one to the published prices current of the China newspapers, the more prominent instances of great fluctuations in prices in China will suffice to show that in the two periods of 1837-8 and 1848-9, the prices were depressed below the cost of production. Thus, in the season of 1837-8, after several months of inaction in Canton, during which the crops of both green and black teas had come in, and an unusual or even unparalleled accumulation of stock had taken place, the prices of sound country-packed cargo-grade Young Hysons was reduced to seventeen taels, of Hyson Skin to thirteen taels, and of Twankays to fifteen taels, with proportionate reductions in other grades and kinds of green; and the price of Ankoi Souchongs to eleven taels, with Ning Yong kinds at fourteen to sixteen taels. These were the lowest points for sound teas, when, on the 29th January, 1838, the ship "Orixa" arrived in China, with letters of September 6th, from Liverpool, (it being seven years before the establishment of steam communication overland to China,) conveying accounts of a reaction and considerable rise in prices in England. The immediate consequence was a general rise in prices at Canton; and before the immediate demand for teas was supplied, prices had already advanced, on the 9th of February, (eleven days after the receipt of the account,) to twenty taels for "cargo" Young Hysons, sixteen taels for Hyson Skins, twenty-two taels for Twankays, thirteen taels for Ankoi Souchongs, and other grades and kinds in almost or quite an equal proportion; and by the 5th of March the same grade of Young Hyson had risen to twenty-six taels. And thus, in a period of thirty-five days, an advance of about 50 per cent was established, although the almost entire crops of the year were on hand at Canton.

Review of prices of green teas and stocks, years 1837-38, and 1843-49.

Omitting the subsequent years, until after the treaty of peace with England, and taking about the same period of each of the following, we find the

quotations of prices as follows :—February 18th, 1843—twenty-five to thirty taels for common to good “cargo” quality Young Hysons, with a stock of 20,000 half chests ; Hyson Skins, seventeen to twenty-one taels for “cargo” qualities, with a stock of 17,000 chests ; Twankays, twenty to twenty-five taels for “cargo” qualities, with a stock of 30,000 half chests, and 10,000 chests. January 10th, 1844—twenty-five to twenty-eight taels for ordinary to fair “cargo” grades, thirty to thirty-two taels for strictly good “cargo” Young Hysons ; fourteen to nineteen taels for ordinary to good “cargo” Hyson Skins ; twenty-two to twenty-four taels for good “cargo” Twankays. On the succeeding 6th of March, when it was clearly ascertained that the crop was short of the wants of the consuming countries, the prices had risen 10 to 15 per cent for the several kinds before quoted ; and to supply the demand, resort was then had to mixing the Canton-made teas with the genuine country tea ; yet, notwithstanding this means of augmenting the export, the commercial year closed (on the 30th of June, 1844) with an aggregate of but 14,257,364 lbs. shipped to this country, or more than two millions short of the previous export, and of the estimated wants of the country, as the succeeding season’s transactions, which we proceed to quote, will show. November 25th, 1844. “For green teas the demand has been active for both England and the United States, and the different chops have been settled almost as fast as they have arrived, at thirty to thirty-four taels for ordinary to good ‘cargo’ grades of ‘Singo’ Young Hysons, and thirty-four to forty for ordinary to good ‘cargo’ Moyune Young Hysons,” &c., &c. ; “And on comparing these quotations with those of last season, we find they show an advance of 25 to 30 per cent on all kinds, except Hyson Skins, which are 10 to 15 per cent higher.” December 5th, 1844. A further rise to thirty-four taels for the lowest quality of country-packed Young Hysons, and to thirty-eight for strictly good “cargo” Moyune, although the process of mixing Canton-made teas had already been resorted to extensively. These high prices continued, and the reductions from them were only for mixed teas ; and by the aid of this process of mixing, the export was swelled, by the close of the year, to 20,751,583 lbs. to this country, or 6,500,000 lbs. increase upon the previous year ! Yet, on the succeeding 24th of December, (1845,) with the crop all come in, we find the prices paid were twenty-seven to twenty-nine taels for common, to thirty-one to thirty-three for good “cargo” grades of Young Hyson, and eighteen to twenty-three taels for common to good “cargo” Hyson Skin, and extensive purchases made ; and at the close of the commercial year, (June 30th, 1846) we find that “of green teas there are no country-packed left,” after an export to this country of 18,502,092 lbs.

In November, 1846, the opening prices were about 10 per cent lower than in 1845 ; and we find the season closed with little or no stock of country-packed teas left, save Twankays, and an export of 18,886,287 lbs. to this country.

In November, 1847, the prices were opened 10 to 15 per cent higher than in 1846, and there was a rise subsequently, and afterward a decline to about the opening rates for "cargo" qualities of Young Hyson, and a decline again further on in the season, to about twenty taels for common "cargo." The year closed, (June 30th, 1848,) however, with no stock of country-packed teas of consequence remaining, with an export of 19,339,133 pounds to this country.

And we are now brought to the past season, after having shown, as we believe, that no other presents anything like a parallel to it, in respect to a depression of prices in China, save the other memorable year of 1837-8.

Proceeding to the record of the trade the past season, we find it, under date of December 27th, 1848, as follows:—"A very active business has been done in green teas, principally for America, and prices are eighteen to twenty-one taels for common to fair 'cargo,' twenty-four to thirty-four taels for good, forty to forty-five taels for fine to extra fine Young Hyson; ten to thirteen taels for common to fair Hyson Skin; thirteen to fifteen taels for common to fair Twankay."

These quoted prices will about correspond, on the average, with those of 1837-38, allowing somewhat for the lessening of the export duty, which took effect in 1843; and subsequently there was a slight decline in some kinds as well as a somewhat lowered cost for very low qualities at Shanghai. Another element of the lessening of cost at both ports will be alluded to hereafter. Yet, such had been the discouragement from the depression of prices here, that this low scale of cost in China, which, it has been shown, had only been reached once before since 1833, did not offer an inducement to shippers sufficient to equalize the export with that of the previous season, the year having ended (June 30th, 1849) with an export to this country of 18,710,017 lbs.; the greatest deficiency, as compared with several previous years, being in green teas, which were shipped in pounds, 13,834,453, against 15,340,565 lbs. in 1847-8.

And yet, notwithstanding this lessened shipment, at the close of the year, we find that there were but about 3,000 packages of all kinds of green tea left on hand at Canton, with very little at Shanghai.

It might be shown that similar fluctuations, and not less in degree, have followed similar causes in respect to Congous and other black teas;* but the examples given are such as best apply to the trade in this country, so that, were it not desirable to make this paper as concise as possible, there is no necessity to extend upon these points.

This review of the Canton market will be found, upon careful scrutiny, to sustain the opinions expressed in respect to a deficiency of supply as a consequence of the recent depressed scale of prices here. It will show, in the

* The September accounts from China, of an advance of about 20 per cent in Congous, above the prices of last year, and the same in Ning Yongs and Oolongs, are instances in point.

Lessened export of green teas.

No stock left in China.

Similar fluctuations in black teas.

Inadequacy of the prices of 1843-47 to stimulate production beyond the wants, and consequent rise in prices in China

annually, almost complete exhaustion of the stock of teas in China, the inadequacy of the prices, on the average of the good years, to stimulate production in any degree beyond the current wants of the consuming countries, and the consequently sudden advance in prices in China, which succeeds a return to prosperity in those countries.

A simple calculation, indeed, will make clear to the apprehension of every reader that, as regards the *lowest-cost* teas, Hyson Skins, Twankays, or low black teas, it is impossible to produce them in China at the prices of last year. For the export duty is uniform on every pecul of tea—two taels and five mace, or with cost of Sycee, &c.—about three cents per pound; the wood and lead for boxes, the transportation and portorage, (always upon bulk or weight, and therefore a very heavy per centage on poor teas,) and the fees at the passes, equal, at least, four cents per pound; the freight to this country is about three cents per pound more; the loss in weight 2 per cent;—so that ten cents, or more, per pound, is incurred in charges upon the lowest cost tea, leaving the balance of price to cover the value of the tea, including the cost of growing, curing, and packing it, and of the interest of money and commissions. If we estimate these contributions to cost at ten cents per pound, it will be seen that the poorest tea cannot be afforded, at any time, below twenty cents per pound; nor does this price allow anything for damage on the way to the shipping port, or for profits to the producer, or the Chinese merchant. These are the unalterable elements of the calculation of cost; and the unerring indications shown by the natural adjustment of supplies to prices, as exhibited in the review already given of the course of the market at Canton, do not less surely demand a higher scale of prices here.

A closer examination of the working of the trade in China, the past year, discloses another element entering into the lessening of the cost there, (the existence of which has been already alluded to,) which, as serving to counteract the discouragements on this side, and thus to enlarge the shipments hither, furnishes another evidence of the necessity of the establishment of higher prices as the only sure incentive to the shipment of sufficient supplies.

It consisted in the lessened cost of the chief mediums of the purchase of teas for this country—exchange upon England and cotton goods—both of which already cost more;* so that any calculation of a permanent reduction of the cost of tea in China, based upon this external and temporary or uncertain† cause, would be unsound.

A simple calculation will show that the poorest tea cannot be sold at 20 cents.

Farther evidence of the need of higher prices to maintain the supply.

* Cotton goods have since advanced about 20 per cent, and the rate of bills on London is several per cent less favorable in China.

† The rate of exchange in China depends upon the condition of the opium trade chiefly, than which none other presents such enormous fluctuations. And the cost of cotton goods is ruled chiefly by the cost of the raw material here, than which no other article presents greater fluctuations.

Summary of
argument upon
the ques-
tion of prices.

Following, then, this exposition, and restricting our view to the state of the trade here, and between this country and China, we find, on the one hand, that in a period of sixteen years the prices there have but twice reached the scale of last year, and that in the intervening years, with a scale of prices 50 per cent or more higher, there has been no accumulation of stocks there at the end of the respective commercial years, although the fluctuations upon this side have repeatedly induced the shipment of simulated preparations, and of mixtures of these with genuine tea, by which we are brought to the inevitable conclusion that the average prices* of the four more settled years of the trade since the new regulations came into force, namely : 1843-4, 1844-5, 1845-6, 1846-7, are those upon which, only, we can predicate a just estimate of the cost to the producer, or an approximate one of a reasonable scale of selling prices here. This scale will be found, upon examination, much higher than that of last year here, for green teas especially. And, upon the other hand, we find in this country, at the present moment, *a smaller stock of teas than has been held since 1832*, not only in first and second hands in this city, but over the country generally ; and, at the same time, undeniably, an accumulation, as it were, of the various elements of a general prosperity,† wholly without a parallel, and which is

* These prices have been already quoted, and, adding about 50 per cent to cover the cost of importation, will show the fair scale for prices here.

† From the regular correspondent of the *Commercial Advertiser*, who is known to be in a position singularly favorable for the formation of correct and enlightened opinions :—

LONDON, December 14th, 1849.

Looking at all these circumstances, it is impossible to doubt that a course of prosperity is commencing, which must be attended by a general firmness in prices, and ultimately lead to a degree of renewed activity and enterprise such as has scarcely been known at any former period. Nor is there the slightest danger, at least for some years, of any mad speculation. Even at this moment, in the face of the rapid rise in Consols, and of all other descriptions of sound investment, railway shares remain nearly uninfluenced, and there is such an all-pervading distrust of the concocters of public companies of every kind that it would be vain for these parties to make any attempt upon popular credulity. People are turning their eyes everywhere for good and sound means of investment, but their recent lesson has been too severe for them to have any thing to do with mere speculation. American securities are improving in estimation ; and were it not for the unclean fame of Mississippi, Florida and Michigan, the avidity for them would doubtless be general ; but the conduct of those States inspires a reserve which, perhaps, at the present time, operates beneficially rather than otherwise. The rush, therefore, is toward Consols, and so strong is the feeling on the part of many persons that it will continue and send them up to a price which will enable the Chancellor of the Exchequer to reduce the interest below 3 per cent, that large sums have been sold and reinvested at a disparity, in a different stock, which has the advantage of a guarantee that it shall not be reduced below 3 per cent until after the lapse of twenty years from 1854. The total amount of Consols is upward of £500,000,000, so that a reduction of even a quarter per cent in the interest would produce an annual saving to the country of £1,250,000.

becoming rapidly infused into all branches of business—whence, with an allowance for the rapid increase of the population, also, we may reasonably infer a large increase of the consumption of tea.

And reasons
for the ad-
vance of green
teas.

Upon this view of the trade, we are brought irresistibly to the conclusion that with the opening of the trade in February, we shall witness an advance in the prices of green teas, generally, corresponding somewhat, at least, to that in Congous, Souchongs, and other black teas, last season. And if we turn to regard external causes again, we find that, so far from meeting any indications favoring low prices in England, or a lessening of the demand for that country, there are expectations strongly entertained that the duty will be materially reduced there—the immediate consequence of which, (or even a strong belief of its probability,) will be a great advance in prices in China, whilst the general return to a settled state of trade in most European countries, tends to the same end.

External
causes favor-
ing it.

In short, whether we view the subject abstractly, and confine our inquiry to the results and inferences derived from statistical data ; or comprehensively, and regard the influences which are inevitable, and as powerful, from the concurrent opening of a career of unsurpassed prosperity to the commerce of England and of this country, we are brought to the same conclusion.

Conclusion
of argument.

In now concluding these papers, so far as they relate directly to this country, the writer desires to say that the remarks made are only such as the examination of the subject has elicited ; and that he believes no one who gives it an equally close one can escape the same convictions. Nor have they been made with any purpose or expectation of suddenly or temporarily raising prices beyond a fair and proper standard of value proportionate to the cost, but with the hope of aiding somewhat in the establishment of a scale of prices, so adjusted to reasonable expectations that it shall be more uniform—less subject to rapid and great fluctuations—than the market has presented the past two years.

Explanatory
statement of
the writer's
purposes and
views.

Upon this depends the prosperity of the trade, and the increase of the consumption of tea, for, besides the injury which an unsettling of prices causes, out of these great fluctuations spring the inducements to ship *false* and very inferior kinds.

There are, undoubtedly, causes for considerable variations in prices inseparable from the trade.

Of course it must be understood that all these considerations are to be taken subject to the possibility of disturbance from war or other violent convulsions. Apart from any possible calamities of that nature everything is bright, and there never was a time when the attention of the Anglo-Saxon race might be more safely or vigorously directed to great enterprises. So inspiring, indeed, is the prospect in this respect, that I feel certain many large designs are on the eve of formation and accomplishment, and that a wonderful epoch in human progress will date from the commencement of the latter half of the present century.

arable from the nature of the trade, and arising from the great distance* of the only producing country; but when, after a proper allowance for these, we find prices depressed materially below the cost of production, as was the case in Congou-Souchongs, and some other black teas, in 1847 and 1848, and is now the case in green teas, it is proper to anticipate, by degrees, the natural rise that must take place in prices.

It will be seen that no statement made rests upon the writer's opinion, unsupported by evidence from other sources. If the papers assist, in however moderate a degree, to effect the beneficial changes so much required, to give regularity to the trade, the writer will feel fully repaid, as he will if those who read are influenced to introduce more extensively the wholesome beverage—

“That cheers, but ne’er inebriates.”

POSTSCRIPT.

The following extracts from the speech of Mr. Brodribb, on Taxation, delivered at Liverpool, November 22d, 1849, before the Financial Reform Association of England, convey so direct and forcible a confirmation of the opinions and statements advanced in the first part of this article, (published in the January number,) upon the subject of the duty upon tea in England, as well as in regard to the beneficial influences of the extended use of the leaf, as contributing to temperance and to the domestic and social comforts of the people, and hence to their refinement, and are at the same time so interesting, as furnishing a partial exposition of the working of that kind of taxation in England; that their being appended hereto will no doubt be acceptable to the reader, whilst the writer may consider himself fortunate to be able to present, at the conclusion of his paper, so respectable and complete an endorsement of the opinions he has ventured to advance in its first part, the writing of which here (in November) must have been about simultaneous with Mr. Brodribb's preparation of the materials of his speech at Liverpool.

The value put upon what Mr. Brodribb says, is shown by the following editorial notice of his remarks, extracted from the *Liverpool Times* of November 24th.

“There are few speakers at a public meeting heard with greater attention than Mr. Brodribb. He pours out the resources of a massive mind in a flood of earnest eloquence, which involuntarily arrests attention, less in reference to its rhetorical adornments than from the impressive manner which imparts to all he says a profound and practical value. Few men can arrange an army of statistics

* Though, thanks to *Sea Witches*, (whether so-called, or *Houguas*, *Montauks*, or *Samuel Russells*,) and to knowing *salt-water-men*, the distance is so shortened in time as to be recognized as a new feature in the trade.

with more force and beauty; and the evident honesty of his purpose—the certain convictions of his own mind—force on his hearers a conclusion that he enunciates a succession of truths, self-evident and powerfully persuasive. This is the more impressed on the public mind from the unfrequency of his appearance, despite the temptation within and without—a ready delivery and an eagerness to applaud. He comes forth not to “show off,” but to do good.

“Why tax tea and coffee, which are the very antidotes to spirits, and a free and cheap use of which would, in all probability, supersede the use of spirits?”

* * * * *

“Next come the articles that minister so much to our domestic and social comforts—sugar, tea and coffee. Where is the home, however humble, or the board, however frugal, that does not think itself unfurnished where these are wanting? The people of all classes covet them, and the very poor, perhaps, the most of all. The reason may not be difficult to assign. The meals they furnish are produced the most readily, and with the least trouble; added to which, they are great promoters of sociality, without leading to intemperance or excess of any kind. Indeed, perhaps nothing has tended so much to civilize and soften the ruder manners of the uneducated classes as the use of these foreign products. They have carried refinement with them, both of habits and mind, wherever their use has been continuous; the pot-house and the wrangling-club have found in them their greatest enemies. The drunkard by them has been reclaimed—the truant from home restored. Desolate hearths have been made glad, and weeping eyes dried up, as, by their influence, husband, son, or brother has been won back to the endearing delights of home. Many is the child who dates from such a period the first anxious care of a father regarding his education and morals. From that day the father discharged his highest duties to the State; and how has the State repaid him? By taxing these three articles together to the amount of £11,000,000 annually—ten times the amount of the tax contributed by the costly protected land.

* * * * *

“Here we have an amount of nearly forty millions* weighing on the springs of industry. Taking into account the profit that must necessarily be put upon these forty millions, for employment and risk of such capital, it will amount to fully fifty millions taken from the people. This is what Porter describes as ‘weighing with destructive force upon the springs of industry;’ and he is right in so describing it. It destroys industry by preventing its development. A small huxter, who could find £3 10s. to buy his chest of tea with, and who, by selling that tea at 1s. 1d. per lb. profit could clear 20s., or, at 1d. per oz. could clear £2, must forego the profit of this industry altogether, unless he can command £9 3s. 1d. wherewith to pay the duty. The consequence is, that he is doomed to idleness, and, most likely, to pauperism, and thus becomes a burden on the resources of others, instead of being able to contribute himself out of such earnings to a direct tax, and thus diminish the burden of others. But this is not the only evil of the tax. The effect of it is, that the tea, instead of being sold 1s. 1d., is sold at 4s. per lb., and instead of 1d. per oz., it is sold at 3d. per oz.; and at the latter rate does not pay the dealer so good a profit, in proportion to capital employed and

* This sum of forty millions includes the taxes on several other “necessaries of life.”

risk run, as at the former rate. The increased price is no extra gain to the dealer; it is all caused by the tax, and the additional taxation of the indirect system. Besides, it prevents any but men of large means from engaging in the trade, and, to a certain extent, creates a virtual monopoly. This property is not peculiar to the tea tax, only that the tax on tea is heavier than any other—save the tobacco tax.”

ERRATUM.

The following announcement was omitted by the printer at the conclusion of Part Second:—Another paper upon this subject will appear in a future number of this Magazine:—some statistics of the trade with Russia, Holland, and other countries, will be presented, as well as some further remarks upon the subject generally.

POSTSCRIPT,—JAN. 23d, 1850.

In the passage of these papers through the press the several mails from China and England, and the weekly reports upon this market, have furnished marked confirmations of the opinions expressed by the writer upon several of the more important points of the subject. Some of these, as confirmatory of the First Part, having reached in time for the Second Part, have been thereto annexed; and the following, which have since been received, are here given to further assist the reader toward a correct understanding of the present position of the Tea Trade.

A writer in the *London Morning Chronicle*, under date of Dec. 21st, upon the present position of the *British Trade with China*, thus speaks upon the question of the duty on Tea:—

“The several channels which give employment to British capital in connection with China, and which it should be the aim of our Legislature to protect and advance, may be reduced in the main to—

“First, the exchange of British manufactures, Indian cotton and opium for tea and silk, involving thereby the interests of the manufacturer, the welfare of our Indian possessions, the interests of the shipowner, and, what is much more to be feared is more narrowly consulted than any of these, and greatly to their injury, the Exchequer.

“Secondly, to the trade conducted on native and foreign account, at all times upon British capital, between the several ports on the coast of China, and between that country and the neighboring islands and places in the eastern seas; thereby involving the same interests as in the former case, inasmuch as capital employed in this trade is derived from the same sources as in that instance.

“It does not call for very acute discernment to account for the slow progress towards—nay, rather the retrogression from—an extended commerce with China. To arrive at our true position in mercantile intercourse with that country it is necessary that the precise degree of estimation in which our manufactures are held in China be understood, as also the capabilities of our market to take off the produce supplied by the Chinese at prices which will remunerate the produ-

cer; there is no limit to the extent that our commerce with that country might be carried, if under a reciprocal and unoppressive scale of taxation. But if we find that our markets do not admit of a remunerative price reaching the Chinaman without our manufacturer submitting to a loss upon his manufactures, is it not for our legislators to look into the scale of duties on which both our goods are admitted into China and theirs into this country? What do they find? That while our manufactures are subject to the nominal duty of 5 per cent, we encumber their returns with a duty varying from 80 to 600 per cent on tea, and upon the average consumption of the country 200 per cent.

"Can it, then, be matter of surprise that our trade with China has not realized former anticipations?"

The foregoing remarks, as well as the speech of Mr. Brodribb, already annexed to the Second Part, show the correctness of the opinions expressed by the writer upon the question of the duty in England.

The following extract from the circular of Messrs. Baring, Brothers & Co., of London, of December 28th, announcing a speculation in common Congous, whether based upon an expectation of a change in the duty, or upon the question of supply, furnishes a confirmation of the opinions of the writer upon either point.

"TEA.—A public sale, 20th inst., when, of 19,800 *packages put up, about 4,300 were sold; prices unaltered, except Scented Capar and Orange Pekoe, which declined 1d. a 2d. A speculative demand for common Congou has since sprung up, and extensive transactions have occurred, upward of 20,000 chests having changed hands at prices, showing an advance of $\frac{1}{4}$ d. a 1d.; in fair merchantable common Congou, nothing is now to be had under 10d., and not much thereat."

And the opinion expressed as to the unusual absorption of the stocks of tea over the country generally, is fully sustained by the following reliable reports upon this market from the *Commercial List Price Current*, of Messrs. Burritt.

"TEAS.—There continues a very good demand for both green and black, unusual for this period of the season, and we notice further sales of 800 half-chests Young Hyson, Hyson Skins, and Twankay, by a recent arrival, 589 chests Singapore Ankoï, from Liverpool, and 501 chests Hyson Skin, just received, all at full prices."—*December 22d.*

"TEAS.—Have continued in good request, and we note sales of 1,500 half-chests black and 1,000 half-chests green, in lots, the former to go out of the market at very full prices. The residue of the Samuel Russell's cargo of black is announced for auction 9th instant."—*January 5th.*

"TEAS.—There is a firm buoyant feeling in the market for both green and black, and in some instances improved prices have been realized. We note sales of 2,500 half-chests Ningyong and Oolong, the residue of the Samuel Russell's cargo; 1,000 half-chests Young Hyson, and 5 a 600 half-chests Hyson Skin and Twankay. The cargo of the Houqua, recently arrived, will not be offered at present."—*January 18th.*

"TEAS.—The reduced stock of both green and black has induced great firmness in the market, and given rise to a speculative feeling; and we note sales of 1,000 half-chests Young Hyson, mostly low grade; 600 half-chests Hyson Skin and Twankay, and a few Hyson; and new crop black from the recent arrival, all at very full and even slightly improved prices."—*January 23d.*

POSTSCRIPT SECOND,—JANUARY 26TH, 1850.

The following extract from the Circular of Messrs. Baring, Brothers & Co., London, of January 11th, 5 P. M., (just at hand per Niagara,) still further confirms the opinions of the writer.

"TEA has experienced an animated speculative demand, and large sales have been made in Congou, from 10½d. up to 1s. 9d.; and in the lower qualities of green, common Hyson and Young Hyson, especially the former, from 1s. 4d. to 1s. 6d.—the latter, 8½ d. to 1s. per pound."

TEA : AND THE TEA TRADE.

Part Third.

AS PUBLISHED IN THE MAY ISSUE OF THE MERCHANTS' MAGAZINE.

Two Papers upon this subject were published in the January and February issues, respectively, of this Magazine, and have since been republished together in pamphlet form, in two editions. In the first edition of the pamphlet the following notice appeared:—

Introduction.

“ERRATUM.

“The following announcement was omitted by the printer at the conclusion of part second:—Another paper upon this subject will appear in a future number of this Magazine:—some statistics of the trade with Russia, Holland, and other countries, will be presented, as well as some further remarks upon the subject generally.”

And it is now proposed to conclude the series with the present Paper.

The subject has attracted, by its intrinsic importance, a great measure of attention from others as well as mere commercial readers; and the writer hopes that it will hereafter be presented in a more worthy and attractive form, by practiced and skillful writers,—those who are accustomed to treat of political economy, or who are the active promoters of temperance,—in order that a knowledge of it may be more widely diffused, and the use of the beverage become more general. It has been appropriately spoken of—in an editorial notice of these papers in the *Evening Post*—as, “the drink characteristic of modern and improved civilization, used alike by rich and poor—social, refreshing, humanizing Tea.” And in the *Literary World*, in an appreciative notice of considerable length, it is thus spoken of:—“Among all articles of luxury none has stood its ground more firmly than tea, none, probably, has been productive of more refinement, has been so pure and healthful in its associations. To extend these influences is a work of philanthropy, as well as of mercantile profit.”

Attention attracted to the subject.

“Evening Post.”

“Literary World.”

Major Noah.

Major Noah has recently published the following decided opinion in favor of tea. It appears in answer to a question put by a correspondent, who adopts the Chinese name of *Ching*:—

“CHING.—‘Which do you prefer as a domestic beverage, tea or coffee?’ Tea, by all means. Tea is associated with rest after a day’s toil, of happy firesides,

of temperance, and of peace. A liberal use of the cup, which cheers but does not inebriate, is calculated more than that of any other article to weaken the lures of intemperance, and to attract the laborer from the tavern to his domestic hearth."

The unusual measure of attention given to this subject, at present, in England, has been alluded to in presenting the speech of Mr. Brodribb, in a Postscript to Part Second, and subsequent accounts from there indicate that the interest in it has suffered no diminution—as the following humorous report of the interview of the "Tea Deputation" with Lord John Russell, the Premier, from a recent issue of that "*mirror of the times*,"—"PUNCH"—will show.

"THE TEA DEPUTATION.

"On Wednesday, the 16th of January, a deputation from Liverpool, headed by its members, waited on Lord John Russell and the Chancellor of the Exchequer, with the laudable desire of obtaining their consent to a reduction in the Tea duty:

The business commenced by a few words from Sir Thomas Birch, who was very appropriately selected on this occasion, for, as the Premier (must have mentally) remarked, "Birch has always been looked upon as one of the principal representatives of Tea in this country."

Mr. Cardwell went into the arithmetic of Tea, and proved that, while in the United Kingdom the consumption amounted to only a pound and three quarters per head, it was nine pounds per head per annum in the Australian colonies. This, at a spoonful each, and one for the pot, gave several million cups of tea to the colonists, while, at the same strength of brewing, there would be little more than a dish (of Tea) per diem for the inhabitants of Great Britain.

Mr. Edward Brodribb enlarged on the social merits of Tea, and insisted that, although mere spoons had sometimes made a stir in Tea, there was now a small but determined Tea party springing up in the kingdom, and, with all respect, he would say that the Government would eventually be teased out of the duty.

Another member of the deputation took a view of the matter in reference to the agricultural interests, urging, that, so long as the genuine Tea was kept out of the country by the heavy duty, the hedges of the farmer would never be safe from those depredators who plucked a spurious sort of Twankay from the sloe; and stole for the Tea market that which was neither Hyson nor His'n.

After a few further remarks from other members of the deputation, Lord John Russell courteously acknowledged himself the friend of Tea, and though some called it mere slop, sent over by our foes the Chinese, he was not one of those who regarded it as a "weak invention of the enemy." After intimating his willingness to take a Tea leaf, if practicable, out of the book of free trade, he assured the deputation that he and his friend, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, would, some day, after dinner, take Tea—into their best consideration."

The plain prose account of the same is given in the *London Spectator*, of January 19th, as follows:—

"A deputation, representing the mercantile interests of Liverpool, the Magistrates and the Chamber of Commerce of Edinburgh, and the Chamber of Commerce of Glasgow, had an interview with Lord John Russell and the Chancellor of the Exchequer, on Wednesday, at the Treasury, to urge a reduction of the

Interest attached to it in England.

The tea deputation waited on the Government, and are humorously described by "*Punch*."

And in plain prose by the "*Spectator*."

duties on tea. Sir Thomas Birch and Mr. Cardwell, members for Liverpool, introduced the deputation. The usual arguments in favor of reducing the duties on tea were reinforced by the explanation of the increasing difficulties found in obtaining an article of exchange for our increasing exports to China; the balance of trade on the past year is \$10,000,000; and, unless the import of tea is increased, we can only diminish that balance by checking our exports. The propitious state of the revenue was dwelt on as favorable to the hopes of the deputation. Lord John Russell courteously listened to all that was said; promised 'best consideration;' and declined 'to give a definite answer.' "

And some extracts from the circular of an extensive brokerage house, in London, of January 5th, will serve to show, in concise and rather nervous terms, the merits of the duty question:—

" OBSERVATIONS ON TEA.

" What pays the enormous duty of 2s. 2½d. per lb., which is more than 300 per cent on many qualities?—*Tea*.

What yields a revenue to our government of five millions and a half per annum?—*Tea*.

Now if the sum realized by this oppressive tax were paid into the Bank of England in gold, it would take one of the clerks four years, twenty-one weeks, and five days to count and weigh it according to their custom.

What made our present gigantic East India Company? (Some here we know will differ in opinion, but we say it could not have been done without) *Tea*.

What has had fewer arguments employed in its favor, when more might have been used than on almost any other article subject to an Import Duty?—*Tea*.

What article was untouched by Peel's Tariff? (While almost every other article either underwent some change, or had the duty taken off.)—*Tea*.

What article is that on which the duty to the poor man is 300 per cent, while the rich man only pays from 30 to 60 per cent?—*Tea*.

What article of consumption is now paying the expense of more travelers than any other?—*Tea*.

What article in the grocery business pays for all the loss of bad debts, &c.?—*Tea*.

What has made some of our London Bankers?—Retailing of *Tea*.

What has made some Members of Parliament?—Retailing of *Tea*.

What has enabled others to purchase landed estates?—Retailing of *Tea*.

"In order rightly to estimate the advantages of Tea, we must not look at its value abstractedly, but on the influence it exercises on the country at large. We look upon its use as one of the greatest counteractors of intemperance, for the man who enjoys his tea with his family is not a person who seeks the stimulus of the tavern, and in the lower classes, the public house and the gin-shop. We believe that Father Mathew did good service to his and our country; but we must not forget that men must have wherewithal to refresh themselves, and were they enabled to have good tea, at a low price, an enlivening and gently exhilarating beverage would be placed in the hands of the industrious classes, and man would not so often, as he now is, be tempted to "put an enemy in his mouth to steal away his brains." The gin-palaces, and such places, we look upon as pit-falls purposely placed to entrap the footsteps of the unwary. Few so heedless as to fall into a pit if exposed to their view; but the warmth of the

The merits of the duty question pithily stated by a London Brokerage House.

The great benefits derived from Tea.

fire, the brightness of the lights, the temporary excitement of the draught are as flowers strewed over the deadly chasm beneath. We do not go so far as to say that good and cheap tea would in any very decided manner remedy this evil, but we do say this, and every man who has bestowed a thought upon the subject will agree with us, that the man who enjoys a cup of good tea, and can get it, with its necessary concomitants, fire and comfort, at home, will not be in much danger of turning out after the labors of the day to seek the poisonous excitement of the drinking-house. The subject is one which has obtained, and deserves, the attention of the philanthropist. Who can number the situations lost, the hopes blighted, the workhouses filled by this one vice? Let us not waste our breath in tirades against what is evil and wrong: a sensible man would say it is the best to oppose good to evil; to provide things innocent, if not positively salubrious, in the place of those which are decidedly the contrary. The indulgence in liquor, if it does not merit the tremendous censure of the great Robert Hall, "liquid fire, and distilled damnation!" is at least detrimental to health of body, and totally incompatible with peace and serenity of mind. Let us, then, be ready to co-operate with every endeavor made to persuade government to REDUCE THE DUTY ON TEA, and if we are in earnest in our desire, they will, sooner or later, yield to the pressure from without."

The following concise expression of opinion on the subject of the duty is from the *Liverpool Chronicle*, of January 12th, last:—

* * * * *

"The enormous duty on tea is likewise utterly indefensible. To impose a heavy tax on the "cup that cheers, but not inebriates," which is almost the only support of that large class of distressed females for whom much commendable sympathy is now expressed, as though it were an article of luxury confined to the wealthy, is harsh, if not cruel. Not only would a much larger consumption of the article follow a reduction of the duty, which would speedily augment the Exchequer, but it would open, to an extent of which we have little conception, the markets of China to the manufactures of this country in that spirit of barter which is the very soul of trade.

* * * * *

"The greatest comfort we possess, while oppressed with our present absurd and unequal system of taxation, is, that it cannot last long."

THE QUESTION OF CONSUMPTION IN THE UNITED STATES.

In reverting to the consideration of the question of the consumption in this country, we are always brought to the necessity of a more stable and uniform market here;—the prevention of rapid and great fluctuation of prices, out of which spring the inducements to ship *false* and very inferior kinds of tea, from the introduction of which a distaste arises, and the use is checked.*

* The same effect is seen in the use of coffee, as the following paragraph from the paper of Major Noah, of a recent date, shows:—

"A house in this city advertises 500 bbls. of peas for sale, and heads the advertisement—"To coffee-roasters." This is an invitation to commit a fraud by mixing coffee with an article, which, if not deleterious, is at least objectionable. We are in favor of burning our own coffee."

The duty question concisely stated by the *Liverpool Chronicle*.

The question of consumption in the United States.

The nature of this commerce, based as it is upon an article of prime necessity, which is the production of but one country, and that a distant one, and the extension of whose use follows so surely the diffusion of knowledge, and conducted, as well in second as in first hands, by a comparatively limited number of the most intelligent and respectable merchants, whilst its importation is almost confined to this port, should exempt it from the frequent and rapid fluctuations to which coffee and other products of many, and of near, as well as distant countries, whose importation and sale is neither confined to a limited number of merchants, or to any one port, are subject.

The nature of this commerce should exempt it from fluctuations.

In reviewing the trade for the last period of five years, we find a remarkable uniformity in its amount, as shown by the exports from China hither, which, for convenience, we now repeat the gross sums of. Thus, there were shipped to this country in—

Remarkable uniformity in the imports.

	1845.	1846.	1847.	1848.	1849.
Green ..lbs	13,812,099	14,236,082	14,388,938	15,340,565	13,834,453
Black	6,950,459	4,266,166	4,498,798	3,998,578	4,875,564
Total..	20,762,558	18,502,248	18,887,736	19,339,083	18,710,017

Showing an average of about 14,323,000 pounds of green, and of about 4,917,000 pounds of black; and of both, 19,240,000 pounds per annum. This presents a uniformity such as no other article of importation does for a like period, and indicates a commerce free of the elements of fluctuation.

We find therefore, that the influences which have disturbed the course of prices here are external, or of an imaginary nature, and that the remedy lies in the adoption of a new system of sales, by which a regular and more gradual offering of the annual and inevitable accumulation of the importations in the spring may be provided for. As to the period of shipment from China, the laws of nature control the operations of the merchant; for the incoming of the crop of tea at the shipping ports is naturally in the autumn; the monsoon soon after favors the vessel's return hither; and the approaching season of humidity does not less powerfully than the winds tend to warn the merchant against delay in China.

The influences which unsettle prices are not intrinsic; and necessary remedy suggested.

The period of shipment indicated by natural causes.

These natural and uncontrollable causes, then, indicate clearly the necessity of the suggested remedy. The considerations of its expediency have already been presented in the previous papers, in anticipation of the opening of the spring trade here; and the subsequent course of the market, has, in the most marked manner, confirmed the opinions then expressed upon this point, after due allowance for the unusually limited country demand during the past six weeks.

The course of the market here shows the need of the remedy.

There is no doubt but that the highly respectable auction houses now employed to sell the teas imported, would gladly concur in a new system of sales, whereby the amount obtained, and, as a consequence, their own commissions would be considerably increased, while their convenience would also be promoted. A great convenience would result to all the parties to the trade, also, in the greater diffusion of the payments for the teas over the year,—

Its adoption a benefit and convenience to all parties.

indeed, when the large aggregate amount of the sales of tea is considered, a greater equalization of the payments over the year will appear as a benefit to all branches of business.

Peculiar interest in the consumption of Tea.

The question of consumption is always recognized as the most important element in considering the progress of commerce in any article, and in the examination of it with reference to *tea*, it is found to possess peculiar interest. It is an article whose intrinsic qualities are the least understood, generally, and the examination and judgment of which, by the few who have some practical experience in it, is the most important of all those products which enter into general consumption. No other necessary of life offers so great a variety of kinds, much less such a diversity of qualities; nor is any other so valuable in proportion to weight or bulk; yet no other is, as a general thing, so hurriedly examined and sold.

Evils resulting from hasty sales

The evils resulting from this haste, and consequent incompleteness of examination, are not confined to the mere fluctuation of prices, but affect the management of the dealers in all parts of the country, and thus act prejudicially upon consumption; whilst, as has been before remarked, the fluctuation in prices induces the shipment of very inferior qualities, and this prejudices the consumers against the good tea.

Undue regard to the "style" of the leaf.

The general want of nicety of judgment in the selection of tea, and the consequent undue regard paid to the "style" or form and color of the leaf, rather than to the intrinsic quality, which can only be well tested in the cup, and which is often indicated by a broken leaf, whether in green or black teas, for the reason that the youngest leaves are naturally the tenderest and soonest broken, and, at the same time, the richest in flavor, is at present a check to the growing predilection for the beverage. Other misapprehensions exert a similar influence: one of these, the general impression that teas seriously deteriorate in quality by keeping a year or two; whereas, all kinds of black tea, save only the delicate white leaf of the Pekoe, which rarely or never comes to this country, are really improved by keeping a year; and the kinds most used here, Oulooong, Ning-Yong, Ankoi, and Congou-Souchong, really require the effect of the lapse of time in abstracting the *fire* which has been communicated in the curing of the leaf, to render them mellow and palatable to those persons who have been accustomed to the use of tea in China or England; and a very considerable portion of the green teas would gain, rather than lose, in appreciative flavor, by being kept a year. It is necessary to say, however, that tea of no kind can be kept sound in a small parcel, or in an open package, any considerable length of time, although a package of 60 to 80 pounds would, if originally well cured, keep for several years unimpaired in a dry, airy place.

Teas improve by keeping.

The Chinese do not drink new tea, but consider it necessary to allow time for the *fire* to escape; and they say that the highly-fired black teas of the better qualities, really improve in flavor by being kept two years in tight leaden boxes.

To the various causes alluded to must be attributed the comparatively slow increase of the consumption of tea, and the wide disparity shown by the really immense increase in the consumption of coffee. That the introduction of the poor qualities of tea into the west and south-west, which was noticed in Part First, where the chief increase of the population has accrued, has had the effect to turn the consumption upon coffee, there is no doubt:—for we find that the chief increase in the use of tea is in the Eastern and Middle States, including, however, Ohio, where the dealers and consumers appreciate the better classes, and where the judgment of qualities, from long habit, is better, and if this were not so, the greater economy of tea, as compared with coffee, irrespective of the distance of place, and which is more in proportion to the distance of carriage, as well as the greater portableness and convenience of it, would have kept the consumption at its relative proportion, as shown in other parts of the country. That tea, when properly used, is much the most economical, and its effects salutary, as compared with coffee, whose effects are usually injurious, there is no doubt. And it is understood that the physicians, during the prevalence of the cholera last season, recommended the use of black tea instead of coffee. There are already indications of the turning of the consumption upon black teas in Ohio and other parts of the West, in lieu of coffee; and it may be hoped that, as the necessary knowledge in preparing it extends, and the better qualities become appreciated, the disparity in the consumption of the two beverages will be removed. The sincere efforts of every one in the trade should be used to this most desirable, because mutually beneficial, end.

Causes of the relatively small increase of the consumption of Tea, as compared with Coffee.

Injurious effects of Coffee.

Sincere efforts should be used to extend the use of Tea.

By judicious and persevering efforts, the consumption may be brought somewhat nearer to correspond with the ratio of it in the United Kingdom, where "a large proportion of the population does not consume tea," owing to its high cost. In 1846, it will have been seen, the rate per head of the whole population, (including Ireland,) was $1\frac{1}{2}$ pounds; at which this country would now require about 30,000,000 pounds, instead of 20,000,000; but, as has been before stated, the proportion of persons who can afford to buy tea in this country is immeasurably greater than in Great Britain and Ireland; and when it is considered that in England, as is stated in the papers of Mr. Norton, in Part Second, "in private families, whose expenses are based on competence, the consumption of tea is twelve to thirteen pounds per head, and that domestic servants in such families, when allowed tea, have nearly one-quarter of a pound per week, or thirteen pounds per annum," the disparity in the consumption in the two countries is truly surprising; and suggests the hope of a greater ratio of increase than the former statistics have shown. The past and present seasons, it is believed, will be found to show a greater increase.

By judicious management the consumption may be increased.

Consumption in England 13lbs. per head by people well-to-do.

The following remarks referring to this branch of the subject are extracted from an editorial notice of the first and second of these papers in the *Literary World* of March 2d:—

Remarks of the Editor of the Literary World upon the disparity in the consumption in England and this country.

"One striking result is prominently brought out by the apparent incongruity of cause and effect. It is that the increase of the consumption of tea is proportionably higher in England than in this country, notwithstanding the duty in one country is enormous, and in the other nothing at all. In England there is a fixed duty upon all qualities of tea, Mr. Nye tells us, of about fifty cents a pound! The explanation of the different progress of consumption in the two different countries, Mr. Nye finds in a great degree in the use of better qualities of tea in England than here; for the cost of transportation, &c., being as great on a tea of the higher qualities as on the lesser, and the duty being uniform, the obvious effect is to cheapen in comparison the better article. Thus in England the consumer of a poor tea pays a tax of 200 to 400 per cent on the cost, while the high-priced tea pays only 50 to 100. Between the two articles the latter thrives, and, the appetite growing by what it feeds on, the taste for a genuine article of luxury overcomes the cost and the burden imposed by the government. In the United States, on the contrary, poorer kinds of tea are introduced, poorer in quality and actually in economy, and the use of the beverage limited by the distaste created from the inferior article. This is the present working of the system; but it must soon change when it is discovered where the defect lies. Better teas will be found to be cheaper; and the more widely they are introduced, in the more rapid ratio will spread the demand."

THE QUESTION OF SUPPLY.

The question of supply considered.

This question seems to be but little understood generally, and much misapprehension exists amongst those who are connected with the trade. Opinions have been stated which appear contradictory.

Misapprehension existing. The supply inadequate this year.

It has been shown in the previous papers that the downward tendency of prices the two past years had led to the absorption of the old stocks by the consumption; and it is now apparent that the supply of tea in China is inadequate to the wants of the consuming countries, although the early in-coming of the crops, and the prompt shipment of them to England and the United States, appears, at the moment, to indicate an abundant supply. Prices materially higher are required to induce the collecting and curing of the inferior descriptions of the leaf, by which to enlarge the shipments. It seems not to be generally known, either, that an increase of production by planting is only possible in two or three years, which period is required for the plant to grow to maturity and produce.

Every successive mail from China, since the two first papers were written, has brought a confirmation of the opinion of the writer in the fact that the lower grades of both black and green kinds, are in considerably less than a proportionate supply this season, showing, as this does, that the prices of the two past years did not suffice to pay for the tea; and it is well known in England that the total supply of Congou will be less than the consumption there. It seems equally certain that the imports into this country before the 1st of October will fall short of the wants of trade. At the present moment, the data by which to sum up the supply from the 1st of January to the 1st of June, is at hand; and taking the difference in the stocks in "first hands" on

the 1st of January of each year, the supply to the 1st of June this year will be about fifteen thousand half-chests of Young Hyson, and a considerable quantity of all other kinds of green tea, short of last year. There was no American vessel in China at the last dates, nor will any arrive thereafter, probably, in time to load and reach here before the close of the spring trade, or about the 1st of July. There was a deficiency of 2,000,000 pounds of green tea in the export to England, to the last dates; and if this be made up (consisting chiefly in Young Hyson) from the stock in China, there will be a large deficiency, even if every package be taken, in the year's shipment to this country. This deficiency in England must be made up from this country, if not from China, for the tea is wanted for actual consumption; and, in either case, the supply here must prove very much short of last year's import. The character of the lessened export of green tea to England, indeed, indicates that a considerable quantity of genuine tea will be required from this country, as stated in the following extract of a London circular of the 4th of March:—"The following is an extract of a Canton letter of December 26th:—"The purchases of these teas (the new crop of green) for England have been very limited in extent, the run throughout the season having been almost entirely upon the Canton sorts, of which fully four-fifths of the export consists; and of these, not a little is altogether spurious."*

Deficiency of
of shipment to
England.

In December, 4,000 packages of the finest Hysons were taken at Canton for Portugal; and a large quantity of Hyson Skins for Sydney.

Considering, then, that there is not only a deficiency of 2,000,000 pounds in the export to England of green teas, but a still greater one of genuine tea, and a considerably lessened supply provided for this country to the 1st of June, there should be a brisk demand here at higher prices than last year for all kinds of green teas.

Prices should
rise.

THE TEA TRADE WITH RUSSIA, HOLLAND AND OTHER COUNTRIES OF EUROPE— AND WITH THE COLONIES OF ENGLAND.

We now come to a review of the trade with the lesser consuming countries. That with *Russia*, so far as has been ascertained, has been less subject to fluctuations, and is a gradually progressing one since 1820; but the exact statistics of it, for all the intermediate years, have not been obtained.

The trade with
Russia.

The following are the different statements, so far as obtained:—

IMPORTATION OF TEA INTO RUSSIA.

Years.	Quantity. Poods.	Value. Roubles.
1824.....	154,197	6,260,429
1825.....	133,514	4,807,049
1826.....	130,562	5,675,992
1827.....	161,958	6,719,166
Total poods.....	580,231	23,462,636
Of which exported.....	3,843	775,730
Leaving for consumption	576,388	22,686,906

* The same letter states that the supply of good and superior green teas is less than in ten years before.

On an average, 144,097 poods, of the value of 5,671,726 roubles ; or in English weight and money 5,187,496 lbs., value £248,346 sterling.

In 1832 the import into Russia was 179,474 poods, or 6,461,064 lbs.

In 1847 Mr. Martin estimated the consumption in *Russia* at 10,000,000 lbs.

It consists almost entirely of black tea ; and two to three years are required, in the transit through Siberia, to reach *St. Petersburg*.

The trade with
Holland.

The next country in importance of those now under consideration in the consumption or importation of tea is *Holland*. The shipments to that country have varied very greatly from the earliest history of the trade to the present time. During several distinct periods of time great quantities of tea were shipped to *Holland* for introduction, by smuggling into England, varying with the inducements presented by the revenue laws. In 1783 to 1794 the exports from China by the Dutch averaged about 4,000,000 lbs. per annum. In 1818 to 1829 there were shipped to the Netherlands, in American ships, about 19,000,000 lbs., and by the Dutch, in the same period, 492,382 quarter-chests of 66 lbs. each. From 1829 to 1838 there were considerable shipments in American vessels almost annually.

In 1838 the consumption of tea sent into and through *Holland* was estimated at about 2,800,000 lbs. per annum. At present the direct shipments to *Holland* are less than this quantity ; and not only that country, but every other one of *Europe*, except *Russia*, is now supplied, a considerable proportion of its wants of tea, from England.

The following table contains the account of the recent exports to the continent of Europe :—

EXPORT OF TEA TO THE CONTINENT OF EUROPE.				
GREEN TEA.				
Direct ship- ment to the Continent of Europe.		1846-7. <i>a</i>	1847-8. <i>b</i>	1848-9. <i>c</i>
	Young Hyson..... lbs.	202,422	27,200	24,800
	Hyson	291,268	117,300	88,900
	Hyson Skin.....	149,219	43,300	40,100
	Twankay.....	190,773	124,100	92,500
	Imperial	108,044	62,000	91,600
	Gunpowder.....	63,219	59,500	21,200
Total green.....	1,004,945	433,400	289,400	
BLACK TEA.				
	1846-7. <i>a</i>	1847-8. <i>b</i>	1848-9. <i>c</i>	
Congou.....	1,905,942	1,027,300	1,231,600	
Souchong.....	641,046	372,300	119,600	
Pouchong.....	23,300	....	....	
Ouloong	21,600	10,300	....	
Flowery Pekoe.....	677,633	150,600	146,300	
Scented and plain O. Pekoe.....	58,300	25,700	....	
Caper.....	2,100	32,100	13,900	
Total black.....	3,329,921	1,618,300	1,511,400	
Total green.....	1,004,945	433,400	289,400	
Total pounds.....	4,334,866	2,051,700	1,800,800	

a In 15 vessels ; *b* in 7 vessels ; *c* in 8 vessels.

To *France* two or three vessels with parts of cargoes of tea make up the annual shipment from *China*. To France.

To *Portugal*, some years, about 10,000 chests of Hyson are shipped through Macáo by Portuguese vessels. To Portugal.

To *Hamburg* and *Bremen* two or three moderate cargoes make up the average annual shipment from *China*. To Hamburg and Bremen.

To *Denmark* and *Sweden* one or two small shipments in a year comprise the direct supplies. To Denmark and Sweden.

Australia has become the most important consuming country, in proportion to population, as the table below will show : and as the increase of the populations and of their means is very rapid, there will be a rapidly increasing outlet there for tea :— To Australia.

EXPORT OF TEA TO AUSTRALIA.

BLACK TEA.

	1846-7. <i>a</i>	1847-8. <i>b</i>	1848-9. <i>c</i>
Congou.....lbs	784,000	472,100	902,300
Souchong.....	93,000	19,200	32,600
Scented Orange Pekoe.....	2,600	....	800
Scented Caper.....	7,600	....	....
Plain Orange Pekoe.....	2,000	....	....
Plain Caper.....	1,000	19,200	....
Flowery Pekoe.....	200	....	....
Sorts.....	5,100	....	3,400
Total black.....	895,500	510,500	939,100

GREEN TEA.

Hyson Skin.....	2,803,000	1,592,400	2,046,900
Twankay.....	59,300	29,400	3,700
Hyson.....	30,500	11,500	9,300
Young Hyson.....	7,600	2,000	7,000
Imperial.....	5,700	1,300	600
Gunpowder.....	17,700	15,400	15,500
Total green.....	2,923,800	1,652,000	2,083,000
Total black.....	895,500	510,500	939,100
Total pounds.....	3,819,300	2,162,500	3,022,100

a In 27 vessels ; *b* in 17 vessels ; *c* in 24 vessels.

This closes the separate view of the minor consuming countries.

The present consumption of *tea* by all the world, save *China* and *Japan*, may be estimated in round numbers as follows :— Present consumption in all the World.

Great Britain and Ireland will consume this year.....lbs	52,000,000
Continent of Europe and other countries, exp't'd f'm Eng.	4,500,000
Continent of Europe, Except Russia, direct.....	2,500,000

7,000,000

Deduct for "other countries"..... 2,000,000

Leaves for the continent of Europe, except Russia.....	5,000,000
British North America, East and West Indies, Cape of Good Hope, &c., through England and direct.....	3,500,000
Australia.....	3,500,000
Russia.....	10,000,000
United States of America, including exports to various countries.....	20,000,000
South America, Eastern Islands, &c.....	500,000

Total pounds..... 94,500,000

In concluding the series of these papers, we annex the following account of the growth and curing of tea, &c., extracted from Mr. Martin's Report to the committee of the British House of Commons:—

Account of
growth of Tea.

The territory in which the large amount of tea consumed in Europe and America is grown, is south of the Great Yan-tze-Keang River; the whole region lying between the 27th and 31st degrees of north latitude, and from the sea coast inland for 500 to 600 miles, may be considered capable of producing tea; but the most favored region is the generally sterile hilly province of Fokein, and the provinces of Keangsoo and Chekeang, between the 25th and 31st degrees of north latitude. This territory which extends over 350 to 400 square miles, is composed principally of the debris of a coarse granite, and of a ferruginous sandstone, crumbling into decay; but when well comminuted and irrigated, yielding sufficient nutriment for the hardy tea plant, (a camellia,) whose qualities, like that of the vine, are elicited by the nature of the soil, the elevation, the climate, and the solar aspect to which the shrub is subjected.*

It is generally stated that green and black teas are produced from the shrubs of the same species, with a slight variety; the leaf of the green being larger and broader than that of the black; the former leaf is rounded, the latter elliptic, flatter, and more coriaceous.

The cultivation in different soils, the picking of the leaves at different stages of expansion, and subjecting them to greater or less degree of heat and manipulation in drying, is the cause of considerable variety; probably the same difference exists as between the red and white grape, or the black and white currant.

The shrub is cultivated with great care, planted in quincunx rows, in beds, by seeds, chiefly along the sides of hills with a southern aspect, and on a poor gravelly soil, among the debris of decayed granite and disintegrated sandstone, and where nothing else will grow, and it is used for hedgerows or boundaries.

The height varies from three to seven feet, and it is very leafy. The flower resembles the wild rose or briar flower, common in English hedges in autumn; the seed vessel is a nut of the size of a small hazel, or rather like the castor-oil nut, but rounder: three red kernels are in each nut, divided by capsules, and from these a quantity of oil, termed "tea oil," is extracted, and used for common purposes by the Chinese. Six or seven seeds are put into each hole when planting; in 12 or 18 months transplantation takes place, and about the third year the leaves are first plucked. At seven years of age the top is cut almost down to the stem (as gardeners do with old currant trees,) and a more leafy set of shoots spring up the ensuing year.

The age of the tree is unknown; it has a useful duration, probably to 15 or 20 years. It is an evergreen, and blossoms from the end of autumn throughout the winter until spring. The leaves are dried by placing them first in flat baskets, and exposing them to the air and a moderate degree of sun. They are then further dried or tatched in thin pans of iron, heated by a small furnace of charcoal, the leaves being kept constantly turned round by the hand, and rolled or rubbed between the fingers, to give the leaf a rounded form. When sufficiently fired, it is picked and packed for Canton in chops of 100 to 1,000 chests, each chop having marked on it the name of the maker, the district where the tea is grown, its quality, date, &c.

* I found the tea shrub in several parts of China planted as hedge-rows or fences to fields and vegetable gardens.—*R. Montg. Martin.*

Copper is not used in the preparation of any description of tea; iron pans are solely employed. I visited a tea manufactory five miles above Canton, where about 500 men, women, and children were engaged in converting coarse-looking refuse leaves into several sorts of green tea. A series of large flat iron pans were placed over a range of furnaces heated by charcoal, in several successive degrees. The teas, which had been previously picked and sorted, were then placed successively in these pans by men, who each rolled them to a certain extent. After passing four or five pans a small quantity of turmeric was sprinkled over the leaves, in a pan highly heated, and in the next pan a blue powder, composed of prussian blue and gypsum was added, which gave a delicate green bloom to the leaf, which formerly had been of a dingy black or brown hue. The tea was then gradually cooled in large shallow baskets, then placed in a winnowing machine and sifted into different sizes, the smaller being packed and sold as gunpowder or pearl tea. Thus the greatest refuse of tea, or the leaves which had passed through the teapots of the Chinese, were converted into "Gunpowder," "Hyson," and other teas for exportation, as the Chinese never drink green tea. The proprietor of the manufactory told me that the green tea thus prepared was sold to the Americans, who consume but little black tea. It is said to be difficult to detect this colored tea from the pure, and as the Americans have good tea-tasters at Canton, the English probably receive their share of the adulterated manufacture.

The names of teas are a very imperfect criterion of their quality. Formerly Bohea was the principal tea in use; now the title is used to designate the lowest description of black tea. It may be useful to indicate the designation of the names in general use.

Bohea is an English corruption of the words "Woo-e," "Voo-yeec," or "Ba-yeec," some hills of that name, about 12 miles in circumference, in Fokein, on the borders of Canton province, yielding a common tea of that name, which is gathered three times a year. It is called by the Chinese "Tacha" (large tea.)

Congo, from "congfoo," laborer, is of a better quality than Bohea, less dusty, and with a rougher and more astringent flavor.

Wo-ping teas are so called from a district of that name in Canton province, and when mixed with Bohea form "Canton Bohea."

Ankoi, a coarse tea from the district of that name.

Campoi, from Keinpoi, selected. It is a stronger tea than Congo.

Souche or Caper, from swangehe, double preparation, or choolan, fragrant pearls. A great deal from Ankoi district.

Souchong, from seaore-chong, scarce or small, good thing. It is carefully made from trees three years old, grown in good soil. Older trees, in a similar situation, produce Congo; older still, Bohea and other inferior teas.

There are different sorts of Souchong, and it is not easy to get this tea pure and good in England. The leaf is of agreeable fragrancy, somewhat like new-made hay; the leaf crisp, of a glossy black color, and when subjected to boiling water, of a sick-red hue; and the liquid is an amber brown.

Peko, or Peho, from pih, have white petals or hair, so called from being made of young leaves, gathered in when the blossoming is over spring, when there is a whitish hair or down on the leaf.

The tea flowers are fragrant mixed with the leaf, and give a fine odor and flavor to the tea.

Twankay, from Tunkay, a district where the tea is generally made. In green teas it corresponds in quality to Congo among black teas.

Singlo, from Sunglo, a mountain in Ganhwai. Both these teas have large flat leaves, and are not much rolled.

Hyson, from hechuen, genial spring or first crop, when the young leaves are gathered.

Hyson Skin, Puha tea skin. In Chinese "skin" signifies the refuse. It is formed of the leaves rejected in the preparation of Hyson. The dealers in London give it the name of bloom tea.

Young Hyson, from yee-tseen, before the rains. It is a very small leaf.

Gunpowder is the picked, small, well-rounded Hyson, like shot, also called Pearl or Imperial tea. Several other teas with new names are being introduced.

The different teas are prepared roughly by the tea farmers, and then taken to the manufacturers, who prepare and sort the teas according to the districts in which they are grown, the variety and age of the tree, the size and quality of the leaf, &c. The leaves are passed through sieves of different sizes before their quality is determined. The judgment of the manufacturer in selecting and sorting, and the skill of his workmen in firing or tatching the leaf, is of the first consequence. The better quality teas are more frequently roasted, and each leaf separately rolled. The finest descriptions do not reach England; the mandarins pay very high prices for those teas, and their flavor is so delicate that they would not bear four or five months' sweating in the hold of a ship. The production of tea for the use of the Chinese middle and lower classes must be very great, as it is used at every meal.

The tea found in Russia, conveyed by land and river carriage thither, is said to be superior to the tea generally used in England. This may be owing to the leaf being less fired; many of the finest teas drunk in China would not bear five or six months' stowage in the hot and humid atmosphere of the hold of a ship, and therefore the teas conveyed to Europe by sea require to be dried and fired to a degree which must injure their quality. Teas that I drunk at Foochoo, Ningpo, and Shanghae were not highly dried, and had a very delicate flavor, when drunk as the Chinese do, without milk or sugar; but these teas could not be preserved more than a few months. The Chinese say, that the high-dried superior black teas improve in flavor by being closely packed in air-tight leaden cases for one or two years. Some of the finest teas in China scarcely color the water, and the preparation consists solely in pouring boiling water on a small quantity of the leaves placed in a teacup, fitted with a close cover; among the highest classes a silver strainer is placed at the bottom of the teacup. Tea made up into balls, or compressed into the form of bricks, or of flat cakes, is exported to Tartary, Tibet, Burmah, &c., boiled with milk, and constitutes an agreeable and nutritious beverage.

The constituent properties of tea are,

	Black.	Green.		Black.	Green.
Tannin.....	40.6	34.6	Insoluble fiber.....	44.8	51.3
Vegetable albumen..	6.4	5.7	Loss.....	2.0	2.5
Mucilage.....	6.3	5.9			

The tannin blackens salts of iron. The proportions of tannin must vary with the quality of the tea. A salifiable base, named "theine," in regular colorless crystals, has been obtained from tea.

The ashes of black and green teas yield silex, carbonate of lime, magnesia, chloruret of potash. In distillation tea yields a volatile oil, and according to some, a small quantity of resin, soluble in alcohol, and possessing the odor of tea. The effects of tea on the human system are, first stimulant, and then narcotic, according to the strength of the beverage. In moderation tea is an excellent diluent; it promotes digestion, and stimulates the renal glands.

The following decisive testimony to the greater healthfulness of tea, as compared with coffee and all other drinks, from the highest authority, has just met the eye of the writer, and as fully sustaining, in clear and direct terms, the opinions he has expressed in these papers, he desires to call particular attention to them:—

EVIDENCE OF GEORGE GABRIEL SIGMOND, M. D. BEFORE THE COMMITTEE OF THE BRITISH HOUSE OF COMMONS IN 1847.

Chairman. You have looked a good deal into the question of tea?

I was consulted by the East India Company in 1839, when the Assam tea was discovered in British India. At that period I read a lecture before the Royal Medico-Botanical Society, as its professor. I was requested to publish the lecture, and that led my attention to the subject of tea. I published a little work, and rendered it rather popular.

Mr. Hawes. You think that the Russian imported tea is superior?

Yes.

In what respect?

Both in aroma and in the principle upon which the power of tea depends, which causes its effect upon the nerves of sensation, upon which I think tea principally acts.

What has been the result of the medical inquiries into the effect of tea upon the human frame?

I think it is of great importance in the prevention of skin diseases, in comparison with any fluid we have been in the habit of drinking in former years, and also in removing glandular affections. I think scrofula has very much diminished in this country since tea has been so largely used. For those classes of society who are not of laboring habits, but who are of sedentary habits, and exercise the mind a good deal, tea is of great importance; not to those who have corporeal labor to undergo, but to those who lead sedentary habits, and whose nervous system is much acted upon.

Sir G. Staunton. You consider that a considerable increase in the importations of tea would be favorable to the healthy condition of the people?

Decidedly.

What is your opinion of the Assam tea?

I am afraid it will turn out a failure.

And also of the other tea produced in the western part of India called Camoun?

I have not heard of that.

Dr. Bowring. What is the objectionable character of the Assam tea?

I think the great watchfulness produced by Assam tea must always be an objection to it.

Chairman. Is the effect of green tea sedative?

In some cases.

Mr. Ewart. Is it not true that it may be in some cases sedative and in other cases exciting?

That depends upon certain principles.

Can you give the result of a chemical analysis of tea?

That is not in my department; mine is rather the botanical than the chemical department; but the principal thing is theine, which answers to morphine.

Is not there an admixture of nitrogen in the composition of tea ?

Not more than in all vegetable substances.

In more than the common proportion ?

We have only the dried leaf ; we can hardly judge from that.

Viscount Jocelyn. Are the principles in tea and coffee similar ?

No ; there is a principle called "caffeine" in coffee. We find a metallic substance in coffee, and in the greater part of the vegetable world there is a portion of copper, and it exists to a considerable extent in coffee. There is very little in tea.

Dr. Bowring. In 1,000 parts of tea how many parts of theine do you find ?

That I am not prepared to say, for it must vary so much.

Mr. Moffatt. Your impression is, generally, that tea is a highly healthful drink ?

It is so ; the most useful drink with which we are acquainted.

Viscount Jocelyn. Which do you think is the greatest stimulant, tea or coffee ?

Coffee.

To the laboring man who exerts himself from morning to, night the greatest stimulant would be coffee ?

Yes ; but it is the nutritive quality, often, that I should look to, and not the stimulant.

As far as regards the nutritive quality, which should you say was the most nutritive, tea or coffee ?

Tea. It prepares the system more for the nutrition to be derived from other substances, both animal and vegetable.

Chairman. Have you had an opportunity of ascertaining whether there is much adulteration of tea in England ?

Some few years ago Professor Gilbert Burnett and myself were requested by the Court of Exchequer to examine certain leaves, sloe and other leaves, which it appeared had been collected for the purpose of adulterating tea, and we found that it was carried on to a very considerable extent.

Mr. Harcourt. Is there enough of the copper principle in coffee to be unwholesome ?

I think not, taken in moderate quantities. I believe an analysis has been made. I believe it has been stated that in about ten ounces of coffee there is found enough of copper to cover two inches of a metallic wire of a piano-forte with copper. Dr. O'Shaughnessy made a series of experiments for the purpose of ascertaining which substances had the most copper and which had the least, and the conclusion to which he came was, that there was less of copper in tea and potatoes than in any other vegetable substance used as food.

Coffee, although having no prussic acid in it, has, nevertheless, the effect upon some persons of keeping them awake the same as green tea ?

Yes.

How do you account for that ?

I did not ascribe the watchfulness to prussic acid ; I merely stated that watchfulness occurs from the Assam tea and from green tea. The great objection to the Assam tea which I have found has been the watchfulness produced by it.

Mr. Ewart. Do you think that if the consumption of tea were extended very much among the laboring population of this country it would have a good or a bad effect ?

I think it is the very best fluid that can be taken.

For the laboring population ?

It does not give that tone and strength which is derived from a very diluted spirituous fluid ; but still it would enable them to labor, though not to the same extent. It is more desirable for the manufacturing population. I think a manufacturing population cannot do without it.

You think that it corrects some of the bad tendencies which the system of manufactures in crowded cities tends to produce ?

Decidedly.

POSTSCRIPT.—APRIL 27TH, 1850.

With reference to the preface to the *Second Edition*, wherein the writer, under date of March 18th, alluded to the support which his argument, in respect to the question of supply and prices, had received from the course of events and of the markets; and stated as the *sole* necessity to ensure stability or improvement a more gradual offering of the cargoes then arrived, in anticipation of the season of the greatest demand—he now has the satisfaction to offer here the following reports upon the subsequent course of the market, as fully confirming the opinion he expressed on the 18th of March: and with this he takes leave of the subject:—

(*From the Commercial List.*)

TEAS.—There is a good demand at private, notwithstanding the frequent auction sales, and we note 1,000 half-chests Young Hyson, chiefly low grade, 500 half-chests Twankay, 1,000 chests and half-chests Hyson Skin, and 600 chests and half-chests Congou, on terms not transpired.—27th March.

TEAS.—The market is much depressed by numerous arrivals and frequent public sales, holders thus evidencing an anxiety to realized; prices in consequences have experienced a decided decline, and the two sales of the week show a falling off of 2 a 5 cents on Oolong and Congou, 1 a 3 on Young Hyson, and 2 a 3 on good Hyson Skin and common Gunpowder and Imperial. Hyson and common Hyson Skin are without particular change. Three public sales are announced for next week.—6th April.

TEAS.—Notwithstanding the numerous public sales (three last and three this week) there is a steady fair demand from the trade, and full auction rates are realized. The sales include 500 half-chests Young Hyson, 1,200 chest and half-chests and 800 boxes Ningyong and Oolong, on private terms, 200 half-chests Hyson Skin, 23 cents, and 1,500 a 2,000 half-chests Canton Young Hyson, for Canada, 9 a 11½, 6 months.—17th April.

TEAS.—At the two public sales, Wednesday and Thursday, most of that offered was disposed of, without particular change in prices, except for the good and better grades Young Hyson and Congou, upon which a decided improvement was established, and the market generally, owing to the firmness of holders and an improved country trade, stands rather higher than at the close of last week. At private, we note sale of 1,000 chests Congou at full prices. The cargo of the "Tsar" will be offered at auction this morning.—20th April.

TEAS.—The public sales of Saturday and yesterday went off with good spirit, showing a firm market generally, and some improvement in prices of Ningyong, Oolong, and Congou. At private, 500 half-chests cargo Young Hyson, sold at 26½ a 27 cents; and 600 half chests Canton-made, on terms we did not learn. The "Talbot's" cargo was sold at the new "Wall-street Sales-room," which, we understand, has given general satisfaction, and is pronounced by some to be the best sales-room in the city.—24th April.

TEAS.—The public sales this week were well attended, and prices upon the whole have an upward tendency.—27th April.

The following from an English Prices Current by the last mail from China will be seen to confirm the previous anticipatory statements:—

CANTON, JANUARY 28TH.

EXPORTS.—TEAS.—Early in the month an active demand prevailed for the American market, and considerable quantities were settled; but the wants of the shippers being supplied, and the large holders among the teamen demanding high prices, purchasers were checked, and latterly little has been made. Fine Hysons and Gunpowder are

{ inquired after for the English market, but the small stock and high prices prevent large transactions. In blacks the business done has been trifling, and there is every probability of the export of Congou to England falling considerably short of the year's consumption.

